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THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH, 2015

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YSGOL IOLO PUPILS CELEBRATE THEIR SUCCESS AT THE URDD EISTEDDFOD

THE Urdd Eisteddfod, one of Europe's largest youth touring festivals, was held at Llancaiach Fawr near Nelson over the half term week.

Organisers hailed it a "huge success" with increased visitor numbers of over 88,000, fair weather and celebrated competition.

Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg pupils competed in the school and county preliminary rounds, reciting and singing in the Welsh language, in national folk dancing, and in art.

Ysgol Iolo pupils reached the regional finals in various categories and competed in the week-long event. The standard of the competition was extremely high. Celebrating this year's school success were: Cesia Rhys Lewis and Caitlin Morris (*pictured on page 3*) who came second in the Deuawd/Duet year-6 and under.

The school choir won the Parti Deulais/Two Part Harmony Group year 6-and under.

Congratulations also go to Huw Gwyn Jones and Nel Rhys Lewis, former pupils of Ysgol Iolo, who are now in year-8 at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, who won the Parti Deulais/Duet, year-8 and under

Mrs Rhian Williams, headteacher at Ysgol Iolo, commented: "The Eisteddfod is a very special event in our school calander, a true celebration of the Welsh language.

"It's like a child's right of passage to have experienced the fun and thrill of competing at an eisteddfod.

"The festival is full of fun and a fantastic way for the children to learn so many skills, such as self confidence, presenting and performing, as well as practicing their Welsh language.

"They all start in year-1 and have the opportunity to perform in the school rounds and before we know it, here they are performing on the big stage at the national youth Eisteddfod.

"I'm delighted with the talent Ysgol Iolo has shown us this year," she concluded.

Ysgol Iolo contributed to ensuring that Caerdydd a'r Fro came third in the overall medal table. Ceredigion came first, closely followed by Eryri.

ABOVE: Almost all of the school's successful Parti Deulais/Two Part Harmony Group with their musical director, Mrs Eleri Roberts. (Unfortunately, a few pupils were missing due to other commitments).

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Darren Farm housing plan stays in the LDP

THE Vale Council has finalised its Local Development Plan (LDP) and has kept the proposal to build 390 houses at Darren Farm.

In fact, the LDP has been amended at Darren Farm in line with the most recent planning application submitted by the developers CEG.

This plan has the housing spread out over a wider area, with more planned green space, and the LDP has taken this into account.

The news has not gone down well with campaigners against Darren Farm and Chris Pearce, of the Cowbridge Residents' Group, was quickly out of the blocks with a letter to The GEM condemning this development.

(His letter is printed in full on page 19).

In fact, the council is sticking to its guns and continues to see housing needs in the Vale best dealt with by more houses being built close to existing settlements.

Llandow Newydd, where 2,000-plus homes were proposed, is not finding favour.

The Vale Council has, however, decided to specify that a higher proportion of homes to be built in the rural Vale should be 'affordable'.

To try to make this happen, the council will be asking developers to make 40 per cent of new homes 'affordable'

• *The GEM has more details on the Vale Council's final LDP on page 12.*

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

What now for Nell's Point?

I WAS surprised to learn at a recent meeting between Barry Island Traders and the Vale Council that yet another proposal for the land at Nell's Point had been rejected.

The scheme was apparently for a themed indoor water park resort (slides, lazy river, wave pools etc, with combined tourist accommodation), arising from the Vale Council's recent attempt at marketing this land.

How annoying is this, from both a business perspective and for the future of the town as a tourist resort?

It would provide much-needed jobs, valuable amenities that we do not currently have, and a massive tourism spin-off for the resort.

I understand the council's reason for refusal was that it would have taken too long to build – and this is after almost 20 years of the land being vacant.

So many good ideas have come forward for this land over the years and every time they are rejected outside of the public gaze.

It's about time decision-takers were held to account. It can't just be all about building endless flats and houses.

How about making a decision that actually benefits the town once in a while?

You never know, it just might work!

Jonathan Osborne,
FocusBarry member.

Why travel from Bristol?

HOW many more years are the people of south Wales going to have to travel to Bristol for flights they can afford?

When in Bristol airport it is noticeable how many people from Wales are there. The loss to Bristol airport would be considerable if only Cardiff Airport would get their act together and compete with flights at budget prices.

It seems there is very little hope that the situation is going to change in the near future. Would someone please explain to fed-up travellers, why the budget airlines do not operate from Cardiff and please don't tell us that Cardiff Airport is growing and successful.

Mr C Kendall, Barry.

Party time for Marie Curie

MARIE CURIE is here for people living with any terminal illness, and their families. We offer expert care, guidance and support to help people make the most of their time.

As a Marie Curie nurse, I see first-hand how vital this hands-on care and emotional support is. This is why I'm asking people to host or attend a Blooming Great Tea Party between June 20-29.

Last year, across the UK the Blooming Great Tea Party for Marie Curie raised £667,000, which pays for 33,350 hours of vital nursing care.

With your support we can do more, for more of the people who need us.

You can sign up to host your Blooming Great Tea Party at *www.mariecurie.org.uk/teatime* Please do share your event details, photos or get involved on social media using #BloomingGreat.

To get help from the Marie Curie Nursing Service, talk to your GP, district nurse or discharge nurse. Visit www.mariecurie.org.uk.

Helen Davies,
regional manager of the Nursing Service in Wales.

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'Why close the rural Vale leisure centres on Bank Holidays?'

I PAY an annual membership fee so as to be able to use the facilities of the Llantwit Major leisure centre at will.

I would like the Vale Council's leisure services department to explain their apparent difficulty in relating leisure time to Bank Holidays.

Specifically, I would like to understand the reasons why Llantwit Major and Cowbridge leisure centres no longer open during prime leisure time, i.e. Bank Holidays?

The four-day Easter weekend saw both leisure centres completely closed on both Good Friday and the Bank Holiday Monday as they were once again during the late May Bank Holiday.

Do the council believe there is something unique about the residents of the western Vale which makes us inactive on Bank Holidays?

By comparison, are the residents of Barry somehow more active, thus ensuring their local leisure centre is open as normal?

The Llantwit and Cowbridge centres used to open on Bank Holidays, albeit with reduced hours. However, over the last 18 months or so, the centres have closed on most public holidays.

The Vale Council even 'redefined' Christmas and New Year's Eve as a 'public holiday' last year and closed these centres accordingly. Not even 'early closing', just closed all day.

I would like to understand for whose benefit these centres are now being operated?

The fact that the management of the centres is under contract to a private operator is certainly no justification for the Vale Council failing to ensure that publicly-owned leisure facilities are available during peak leisure times.

This requirement should certainly have been included in the terms of whatever contract the council entered into with the private operator.

Nor can these closures be conveniently justified as 'essential cost savings', because the council and Government invest heavily in public awareness campaigns promoting the health benefits of keeping fit and active.

It is, therefore, quite ridiculous to close these facilities on the very days when residents have the most opportunity to take advantage of them.

(Name and address supplied).

'Nursing crisis down to bad planning'

SURELY it makes no sense whatever for executives of the NHS to declare they now intend to recruit and train more nurses for the future, so that they will no longer waste millions of pounds, as much as the institutional overspend, on exorbitant payments to nursing agencies for temporary nurses – who cannot possibly be as efficient as regular nurses?

Why had they not learnt this 20 years ago?

Had they not known how much money agencies had charged the NHS during all those years when executives miscalculated the minimum number of regular nurses necessary, leading to the NHS having to call upon agency nurses, because staffing levels planned had been quite inadequate?

It had proved every year, that the judgement of executives on staffing levels and other matters, such as the constantly reducing number of beds, and increasing numbers of patients on trolleys, was not only deplorable, but they lacked any ability to learn progressively, from past errors.

The Chief Executive now says the management have discovered a new understanding of the facts. The management may be quite correct to deplore the greed of agencies, but they are still no nearer to recognising that the agencies have only profited enormously, because of the gross incompetent pre-planning of the NHS management. There can be no other cause and effect.

C N Westerman,
Brynna.

'What caused sad deaths of our birds?'

IF there are any wild bird experts out there, can they please help? Last year in our bird box, we had a great tit nesting, which laid 10 eggs. Luckily, eight babies fledged.

But this year, we had another great tit nesting who also laid 10 eggs, but all the chicks except one died.

They died at various stages and we have no idea what may have caused this sad event.

If anyone has any clue as to what may have caused this problem, I would be glad to know.

Mrs H Deeming,
Llanmaes.

NEW STOPS FOR T9 BUS?

MANY Rhoose residents now use the 303/304 bus service to Tesco, Highlight Park, changing to the X91 for faster travel to Cardiff.

The (empty) T9's new timetable appears to show that it now stops at Golwg y Coed and Highlight Park. If so, are the drivers aware?

If these are now valid stops, are the Barry and Rhoose residents also aware?

Ralph Taylor,
Rhoose.

'Thank you for the brilliant Vale beach clean-up'

VOLUNTEERS cleaned the coast all across the Vale as part of Keep Wales Tidy's Clean Coast Week (May 9–17).

A total of 10 beaches and bays from Penarth to Ogmore-by-Sea were cleaned by more than 300 volunteers as part of the week, collecting over 200 bags of rubbish.

I would like to say a massive "thank you" to all the volunteers and organisations who joined in with the beach cleans. It was a brilliant effort by everyone involved.

This was the third annual Clean Coast Week, sponsored by McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, which coincides with Clean Europe Week.

This aims to reduce litter and promote responsible behaviour overseas, as well as here in Wales.

Tim Wort
Keep Wales Tidy.

Cadets can hold their heads high

THE air cadets of Cowbridge 293 Squadron did themselves proud during a very busy weekend at the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival.

They were in attendance from Saturday afternoon, helping the stall holders unload their goods, right through Sunday and finally finishing on Monday evening, helping the stall holders to clear their pitches, and only stopping work when everyone else had gone home.

They were a dedicated group of boys and girls, doing a multitude of tasks and keeping the festival clear of rubbish, carrying out their duties with courtesy and efficiency.

Supported by adult staff and parents, the cadets sold soft drinks and raffle tickets for food hampers made up from items donated by the stall holders, as well as a hamper kindly donated by the Co-op.

The Co-op deserves a special vote of thanks for providing free lunch and snacks to the cadets and a quiet area for them to enjoy a well-earned break from their duties.

Tesco also kindly donated soft drinks to be sold by the cadets to help boost their funds.

Many people commented on how hard the cadets were working and how polite they all were.

Congratulations 293 Squadron on a successful weekend and may you all hold your heads up high in the knowledge that you did a fantastic job.

Shirley Lewis,
Llanfair.

Not party to library vote

IN last week's GEM, it was stated that councillors had voted to close Rhoose library. I wish to distance myself from this statement, as I did not vote and could not vote on the issue, since it was a decision made by councillors who were cabinet members.

I am totally supportive of the 'Save Rhoose library campaign group' decision to seek a judicial review in the High Court.

Furthermore, I have reason to believe that there are many other ways of making budget savings, which should have been considered as an alternative to closing Rhoose library.

Fellow campaign member Adam Riley's comments that the council failed to effectively engage local people in consultation, is a view shared by myself and many residents of Rhoose.

It seems grossly unfair to even consider closing this essential service funded by the public purse, since the population for Rhoose is greater than Cowbridge and growing.

The decision of the council to defend their position could indirectly cost us local taxpayers dearly.

Coun Philip Clarke,
Rhoose.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 11)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
04 Thur	08.35	10.5	20.57	10.7
05 Fri	09.17	10.6	21.39	10.5
06 Sat	09.59	10.4	22.18	10.3
07 Sun	10.43	10.2	23.07	10.1
08 Mon	11.31	9.8		
09 Tues	00.01	9.7	12.22	9.4
10 Wed	00.54	9.3	13.25	9.1
11 Thur	02.01	9.2	14.34	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP.

CRICKET CLUB'S HISTORY IS ABOUT MORE THAN SPORT!

Report by **PHILIP IRWIN**

NOTHING takes you back to a different era more completely than a sports book.

In football you can read how first division players would take the bus to the game alongside the fans.

Rugby will take you back to days when full backs did little but catch kicks ahead and then despatch the ball into touch – a certain Cowbridge resident put an end to that!

Put together a history book about cricket and you will pass through a whole series of eras – particularly when you are covering 175 years of Cowbridge cricket history.

That lengthy time period was what confronted Jeffrey Bird and Malcolm Woolley – both club members for many years – when they decided to write a book on the history of Cowbridge Cricket Club, entitled *1840 and all that - History and Reflections of Cowbridge Cricket Club*.

They start with the first recorded game, a match with 11 from Cowbridge taking on 11 from Bridgend in 1840 in a field at the Golden Mile – easily accessible by stagecoach, say the authors.

Cowbridge had a comfortable win, by 61 runs. There was even a Mr Bird opening the batting for Bridgend. However, as he was out for a duck in the first innings, and then for one in the second, the author is in no hurry to claim him as an ancestor!

As the years pass by, all the important figures in Cowbridge cricket make an appearance – none more important than Harry Ebsworth, who bought the land that is still the home for the cricket club.

He paid 1,200 guineas in 1895, which sounds like a lot of money to me, and then lifted "three acres of fine turf" from Stalling Down - much to the disapproval of locals.

He was clearly a man with the means and the determination to get his own way. In fact, for many years the 'Ebsworth XI' topped the bill in Cowbridge, with the town team playing second fiddle.

However, in 1914 Mr Ebsworth was in failing health and, having decided to move back to Scotland, he offered the club a chance to buy the ground at a knockdown price of 700 guineas.

It was still a considerable sum and raising the cash was not easy, but it did give the club a base on a fine ground that, in the 1930s, staged home matches for Glamorgan County Cricket Club.

The authors take us through the history of the club, charting the changing make-up of the team as society changed. For many years, the Cowbridge Grammar School was almost a club academy, providing the team with a stream of well-schooled cricketers.

The 1930s sounds fascinating, and the authors refer to a major schism that developed, with the first team made up of 'gentlemen' while the second team was for manual workers and tradesmen. During those years, the seconds were an extremely strong side, which rather tells its own story.

Matters came to a head in 1936, the authors say, when the club chose to send a mixed team of first and second team players to west Wales for a friendly on a country estate.

The 'gentlemen' were invited to lunch 'upstairs' with the lord of the manor, while the plebs had to stay 'downstairs'.

The downstairs group left and headed back to Cowbridge – leaving a depleted group of gentlemen to carry on with the match!

The authors say that the internal wounds did not heal for another 10 years – until people started to return to normality after the War intervened.

Cricket fans will find many famous names – particularly from Glamorgan Cricket Club – making appearances, and the massive influence of JC Clay is discussed in detail.

In later years, there was the brief appearance of a young man clearly headed for the top. Hugh Morris, the authors say, was an established talent at the age of 12, but made few appearances for the club as he had been talent spotted by Glamorgan.

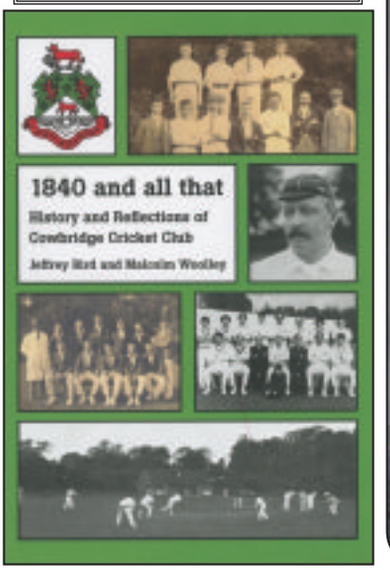
He did, however, play in a testimonial match in Cowbridge for Eifion Jones, the Glamorgan wicketkeeper, at the age of 21.

He marked this by hitting two sixes over the poplar trees at the Lwynhelig End – a unique feat, say the authors, and it's sad to report that those trees are no longer there.

Hugh has stayed a supporter of the club and contributes his own memories in this book, as do Ralph, Roger and Jeff Bird, Ben Wright, Douglas Davies, Andrew Newark and several others.

It might be overstating the case to call this book a social history of the town, but it is much more than a collection of scoresheets and batting averages. Clearly, cricketers will be the most likely to buy this history, but there really is something in it for everyone.

The book can be bought at the Cowbridge Book Shop (£10) or by contacting 07976 793629.



ABOVE: The book cover.
RIGHT: The club scoreboard shows 175 (years) as Jeff Bird and Malcolm Woolley (on right) show off the book!

CHOIR STARS!

ABOVE: Cesia Rhys Lewis and Caitlin Morris were a silver medal-winning duo for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg. (See page 1).

NEW 'ALLOTMENTEERS' ARE WELCOME IN COWBRIDGE!

THE new Cowbridge Community Allotments exist to encourage greater community involvement in growing organic produce and are for people from the local area who would not otherwise be able to access such a space.

The Community Allotment project has recently received a substantial Environment Wales project grant, enabling the allotment site to develop further by doing work to its boundary – including planting new hedging, improving the site drainage, and increasing the number of plots available.

In addition, part of the grant-assisted works will provide raised planters, with easy access for people with impaired mobility.

Environment Wales is a partnership initiative in the voluntary sector, funded by the Welsh Government.

We are a friendly, helpful group, ideal for new allotmenteers.

We have plots available - if you're interested in a plot or part of a raised planter, please contact Angie via *cowbridgeca@aol.co.uk* or our visit our website, *www.cowbridgeca.btck.co.uk*.

Charles Champion, *Secretary*.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Hello Dali!

EIGHT years ago, a local couple paid a visit to the Dog's Trust Centre in Bridgend, with the intention of acquiring a spaniel puppy to replace a much-loved pet which had died two years previously.

During their visit, they were introduced to a dog which was entirely different to a spaniel.

But when Katherine looked into the beautiful, luminous eyes of the lurcher that stood in the kennel at the end of the row, she could not resist Dali, with his long, lean frame and sad 'love me' look...He has indeed become a very clever boy, as I witnessed on a recent visit to his village home.

When Dali is out on his walks with Katherine, he cannot pass a discarded item, such as a plastic bottle. It has to be picked up and taken home!

He also dances in time with music. He really is a lovely, handsome boy.

Saron service

GO along to Saron Chapel, Treoes, on Sunday (June 7) at 3pm and enjoy the service, which will be conducted by the Pastor Shaku Vandi. Everyone will be assured of a warm welcome.

'Awesome pupils'

"WE would like to thank all the pupils and adults involved in the 'flash mob' on Sunday, May 24 at Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival.

"A group of our children aged five and up entertained the crowds with their surprise rendition of Food, Glorious Food', followed by a dance routine to 'I gotta feeling'.

"You were awesome. Well done!"

From Llansannor Church In Wales Primary School.

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Incident was 'totally unprovoked'

MARINES FACE DISCHARGE AFTER ATTACK IN CITY CENTRE

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

TWO Royal Marines who beat up an innocent pedestrian after a drinking spree, have been given suspended prison sentences at Cardiff Crown Court.

Anton Hudson, 24, and Sebastian Tegelaar (22), both stationed at MoD St Athan, admitted a charge of causing Frenchman Olivier Sagot actual bodily harm.

They were told by Recorder Phillip Harris-Jenkins: "That attack was needless, mindless and totally unprovoked."

Hudson received 203 days imprisonment, suspended for two years, and Tegelaar received a six-month sentence, also suspended for two years.

Each was also ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work and each was directed to pay their victim £1,335 each in compensation.

The court heard that they are likely to be dismissed from the service as a result of the sentence.

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that on February 22, Mr Sagot was in the centre of Cardiff with friends and was waiting for a taxi in Castle Street.

The two defendants, who were drunk, and a third man, approached him.

"They were intent on causing trouble," said Mr Trigg.

Hudson punched Mr Sagot and Tegelaar then weighed in and struck him.

"He received blows to the body and head and fell to the pavement bleeding profusely," said Mr Trigg.

The defendants ran off, but were arrested shortly afterwards. Both defendants were so drunk, they had very little recollection of the incident.

Mr Sagot suffered four snapped teeth and a broken nose.

He said he had been in great pain since the attack and was embarrassed and self-conscious because of the state of his face.

Derek Gooden, for Tegelaar, said he had been in the Marines for two and a half years, and was normally a person of restraint.

"He behaved in a manner inconsistent with his character," he said.

Aubrey Samson, for Hudson, said that in the past, he had been cautioned for the offence of battery.

"He is a very proud Marine. He feels he still has something to contribute to society."

The Recorder said the attack took place at night, in a public place, and when the defendants had been drinking.

"It was a joint attack and it was unprovoked. You have brought shame upon yourselves, your family and your regiment."

Friendship Club like Mastermind!

AT the May meeting of Cowbridge Friendship Club, we were very pleased to welcome a new member, who we hope will continue to come along to our meetings, even if she did think she was entering a preliminary round for Mastermind, as it was time for a quiz afternoon!

Although the majority of questions were answered, one stumped members – the name of Istanbul Harbour – and not even the volunteers could remember the name.

There was much amusement and frustration with some of the clues given to help them along.

Even though no-one managed to get all the answers correct, there was certainly plenty of fun and laughter.

Surprisingly, time went by very quickly so it was a quick tea before it was time for members to be taken home.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month, so if you, or someone you know, would like to join, call 01656 668446 to find out more.

PAT SMITH,
Leader

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Garden will open to raise funds for sick children

AN open garden event is being held in Llanmaes on Sunday, June 14, to support a charity that funds research into a rare genetic condition affecting very young children.

Llantwit Major Tangent Club is organising the open day, at 'Mehefin' Sigginstone Lane, Llanmaes (CF61 2XR), from 1pm to 5pm. Entry is £3 with tea, coffee and cakes on sale.

A spokeswoman for the Tangent Club said: "Mehefin also opens for the National Gardens Scheme, and did so last month, so this is a chance for anyone who missed it to see this lovely garden."

Proceeds from the day will go to CLIMB – a charity that raises funds for sick children.

Kate Harvie lives in Llantwit and her grand-daughter, Emilia, has Alexander Disease – one of the genetic conditions into which CLIMB is funding research.

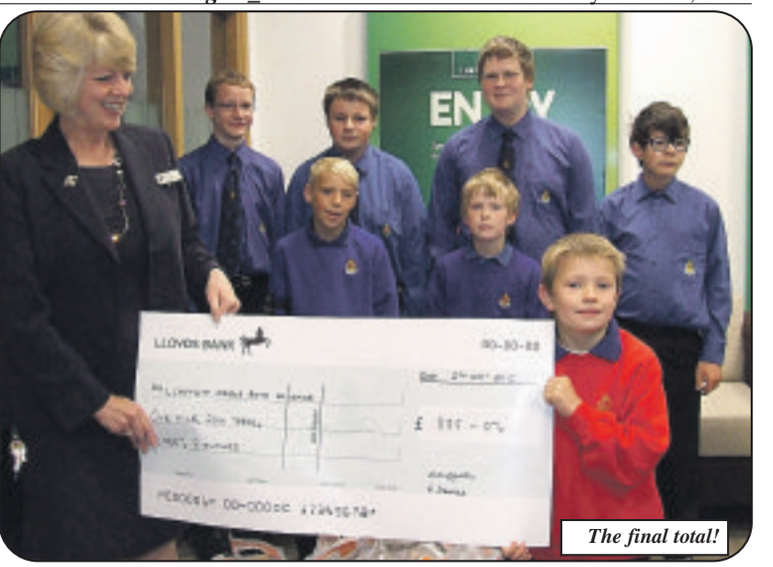
At present, worldwide, there are reportedly only 500 cases, and it is a progressive disease that attacks the nervous system.

Children who are diagnosed with it rarely survive past the age of six.

Kate said: "At the end of July, my son Adrian and 10 others from the area, will be spending 10 days cycling 100 miles a day to fundraise for CLIMB.

"They plan to stop off at every children's hospital in Wales and England, which means they will visit 13 cities.

"To find out more about the cycle ride, or for more information, please visit www.climb.org.uk and www.childrenshospitalchallenge.co.uk"



The final total!

LOCAL BOYS' BRIGADE GO THE EXTRA YARD!

HAVING set themselves a very ambitious target to collect a mile of pennies between the New Year and Easter, members and officers of the 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade turned out in pouring rain at 9 o'clock in the morning and delivered it to Lloyds Bank in the town on Friday.

The pennies are delivered to the bank.

They were presented with a giant cheque by branch manager, Karen Griffiths. Had we laid it out on the ground our final total would have stretched 1 mile, 204 yards, two feet and eight inches, weighing in at almost a third of a ton (£885.07).

Many of our members took collecting boxes home and a number of businesses and organisations kindly allowed us to put collecting boxes in their premises.

The pennies started to roll in.

The boys and girls in the Company Section all did extremely well and the support from the people of Llantwit Major and further afield has been absolutely tremendous, in collecting on our behalf.

This was a most ambitious fundraiser and many of us at the start doubted we would succeed, including the officer who had the idea!

However, it caught the imagination and just about everyone chipped in.

Youth organisations have to continually fundraise just to exist and our local Boys' Brigade Company are no different.

We wish to thank all the following for their wonderful help and support;

The members of the Tabernacle Church and Bethel Chapel, Big Sam's fish and chip shop and Coast Café, Daltons's Men's Barbers, The Flower Shop and the Chocolate Box, The White Lion, The King's Head and The Tudor Inn pubs, staff in the Spar, all in Llantwit Major; plus Simon's Plaice (Boverton), Tesco (Cowbridge), Village Store (St Brides Major), staff and senior pupils at Cowbridge Comprehensive School and occupational health staff at Princess of Wales Hospital (Bridgend). Most of all, we wish to thank every individual who generously gave of their hard-earned cash.

The money raised will be used throughout the coming year towards not only those mundane things like uniforms and equipment, but also to pay for fun and exciting activities and experiences members might not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy.

Llantwit Major Boys Brigade meets at the Tabernacle Church, Methodist Lane on Tuesdays (11-19 years old) or Thursdays (five-11 years old).

For more information, call 01446 796208, or 07815 311947.

ROGER LEWIS,
Organising Officer

DENTAL MAVERICKS HELP 350 CHILDREN ON MOROCCO TRIP!

A 'Dental Mavericks' trip to Morocco, which involved two Barry health workers, has helped 350 children.

by GEM REPORTER

The charity is committed to ending daily dental pain for children in remote areas of the country which have not got access to modern dentistry.

Louise Bottomer, who lives in Barry, and Gareth Crowther, from St Mellons undertook the five-day trip in early May.

Louise and Gareth, who work for Advance Dental Care, were lucky to even get in the country!

Garth explained: "We were nearly barred from entry because we were designated 'of no fixed abode' – the officials were not very co-operative.

"Eventually, we were collected by a 4x4 from the airport and taken to a guest-house in Asni, a small village in the Atlas Mountains.

"Initially we were both very anxious about the language barrier, but the other Dental Mavericks were very supportive and helpful.

"We just learned to leave our dignity at the door and get as silly as possible because if you could get a smile or a giggle out of the kids you knew you'd won and they'd give you as much help as you gave them.

"The children were fantastic and so grateful for the help they received.

"Our local competition was a man working as a barber in the middle of the village souk (market) who with one unidentifiable instrument takes teeth out with local anaesthetic provided by tying the patient's hands to the chair.

"On the first day we set up clinic in the Asni Village School setting up basic but effective collapsible dental chairs and setting out and cold-sterilising the instruments. On the second day we moved the clinic across the valley to another village and set up in the Eve Branson Foundation classroom."

The Mavericks' clinic was split into two parts: triage, fluoride application and oral hygiene instruction, and treatment which sometimes involved taking teeth out.

Gareth took turns with the other dentists there assessing patients and finding out where any pain was located and deciding which teeth had to come out in the back room.

Louise took turns with the nurses applying the fluoride varnish and giving tooth-brushing instruction and assisting with the extractions.

Louise said: "We worked with other dentists and nurses from around the country as far afield as Hull, Stafford, Liverpool and Kent which added to the fun and camaraderie in this group of 17 Mavericks.

"One of the hardest things to overcome was the local bureaucracy, not just in the airport but the visits from government officials who nearly stopped the two dental therapists from working altogether."

Fortunately, a compromise was reached.

APPRECIATED

Louise said: "The other issue encountered was the same official prohibiting the opening let alone the use of restorative equipment, things such as handpieces, portable suction and filling materials which had been impounded for 12 months in Marrakech port. Finally they were released.

"The official had needed four other colleagues to be present to open the machines and declare them safe to use!

"This was gutting to us all at the time as next year we could pretty much guarantee several children would be having their permanent front teeth extracted which for the sake of simple restorative treatment now would not have to happen."

Gareth said that their efforts were appreciated by people on the ground even if those in authority were less helpful.

"On the other hand several locals who were willing to assist our mission at considerable inconvenience to themselves and put the Moroccan Government to shame.

"The mayor put us up in his home, the caretaker of the school helped set up the clinic, and the Eve Branson Foundation local co-ordinator helped smooth things over with the officials and drove us from and to the airport.

"A local teacher helped to interpret and drove vehicles, and the lady who ran the local café helped with triage and made us our lunchtime tagines!

"We would both describe the trip as the most physically tiring and emotionally draining thing we've ever done in the field of dentistry but probably the most rewarding and we'd love to go back and do it again.

"Dental Mavericks is a fantastic cause and well worth supporting and we would like to extend our warmest thanks all who donated or bought raffle tickets in support of the equipment and materials.

"The collapsible dental chairs, though basic, are £800 each, not to mention the cost of local anaesthetics, wipes, bibs, and kidney bowls.

"In the end the results speak for themselves with 350 children treated and hopefully the basic oral hygiene instruction will leave some legacy.

If you wish to support the Dental Mavericks' cause, follow the link: uk.virginmoney giving.com/team/ AdvanceDental.

ABOVE: Louise with one grateful little client.

ABOVE: A total of 350 children were helped by the Mavericks during the five day trip.

100 acts of kindness leads to a very special surprise

AN eight-year-old Barry boy, who carried out 100 random acts of kindness, was treated to an act of kindness himself, when a local businessman let him have a go in a Reliant Regal made famous in TV's *Only Fools and Horses* and the *Mr Bean* series.

Bailey Sloan has ADHD and is on the autistic spectrum. His mother, Lisa, thought carrying out good deeds would be an excellent way of teaching him empathy with other people.

Among the things Bailey has done: clearing litter at the beach, thanking a chef for a nice meal, feeding swans, tidying the trolleys at supermarkets and forgiving people who had hurt his feelings.

He recently appeared on *Good Morning Britain*, ITV's flagship early morning show, to talk about how happy doing kind things had made him – although, he was just as keen to give the 'thumbs up' to his nan Ann on live TV.

Businessman Cavan Sullivan was so impressed by the youngster's selflessness that he took his Reliant Regal, which has a unique place in British TV history, to Porthkerry Park for Bailey have a ride in it.

Bailey told The GEM: "It's very exciting to see the car," and his mum Lisa added: "It was a lovely surprise."

Bailey was also treated to tea at the Porthkerry Park café, courtesy of the Zeraschi family.

Cavan explained: "It is the original car used in the famous 'Batman and Robin' episode of *Only Fools and Horses*, and was sprayed blue and used in the *Mr Bean* series."

There's a touching story behind Cavan's purchase of the car; he bought as a surprise for one of his closest friends Graham Parker who had cancer, and later died.

"He was the biggest prankster ever and loved *Only Fools and Horses*. He even had a dog called Del Boy!"

When Cavan announced he'd bought one of the UK's most famous cars as a surprise for Graham friends and family thought it was James Bond's DB7 or a DeLorean, which was manufactured in Northern Ireland. He and Graham had a drive in it with Graham as Batman and Cavan as Robin!

Cavan now puts the car to a very special use: "I'm hoping to make £100,000 for Marie Curie with it. I'm about halfway to that figure. It is available for photo sessions at businesses, clubs, and events for a charitable donation of course. People can call 07877 836 798 for more details."

ABOVE: A thrilled Bailey with mum Lisa, nan Ann, Cavan – and the Trotters' Reliant Robin, the car that launched a thousand dodgy deals!

Lee is Barry's first world boxing champ!

BARRY has a boxing world champion in Lee Selby, who took the title last Saturday night in the O2 Arena by outclassing the reigning IBF featherweight champion Evgeny Gradovich, *writes PHILIP IRWIN*.

The champ's impressive record of 19 wins and one draw counted for nothing as 28-year-old Selby completely outboxed a tough fighter with a reputation for pressurising and grinding down his opponents.

The Selby camp's plan of campaign worked perfectly and the Russian was well behind on points when the fight came to a premature end.

In a clash of heads, Gradovich sustained a bad cut near his eye. The fight was stopped and the result was decided on points – making Selby a clear winner. (Two judges had Lee ahead 79–73, while the third had him 80–72 ahead).

On Monday, Lee found time in a busy day of media interviews to speak to The GEM, with his 10-month-old daughter Lucia happily offering her opinion in the background!

I asked him when he knew that his team's game plan was the right one.

He said: "It was honestly after about 30 seconds. That was all it took for me to feel comfortable that he had nothing that could hurt me."

I wondered if Gradovich realised that Lee had too much for him, and Lee said: "To be honest, I think he expected to lose the first few rounds to me because he knew I was a better technical fighter.

"Throughout his career, he has got results by pressurising opponents and wearing them down. He must have been hoping I would tire, but that was never going to happen."

Lee was expecting to be busy with media commitments for the rest of the week, but was planning a short holiday after. His promoter, Eddie Hearn of Matchroom, however, has already been outlining his thoughts about Lee's next fight.

Lee said: "We have talked about my first title defence – towards the end of August – and we want that to be in Cardiff, either at the Motorpoint Arena, or in the Millennium Stadium."

He added that the Millennium Stadium can be partitioned off, depending on the ticket sales.

The featherweight division is a strong division, with good fighters holding the WBO, WBA and WBC versions of the title, and Lee would like to add one of these belts to his collection in the future, if boxing politics allow.

It is a long way from when an eight-year-old Lee Selby tried his hand at boxing in the Colcot Road gym. He showed talent right from the start, and from then on he was a regular at the Rhoose Boxing Club, where he was coached by Peter Anthony.

Sadly, Peter Anthony died when Lee was 17, and he next trained in Splott before moving, at the age of 21, to his present gym, St Joseph's in Newport, where he trains under Tony Borg.

Chris Smyth has known Lee since his days at Rhoose Boxing Club and he told The GEM: "I was at ringside, just one row back, and the fight went just as we all predicted. Lee is now Wales' 12th World champ – and Barry's first!

"There was massive Welsh support in the O2. Five coachloads from Barry meant that there were 250 there, and a lot more made their own way to London. Also, another Welsh fighter, Craig Evans, was on the bill, so we really made ourselves heard."

He added: "Lee has so much more to offer, and everyone in his camp just wants to see what he can do next."

Coun Richard Bertin called for a "hero's welcome" for Lee in Barry, saying: "I think an open top bus and parade from King's Square would be very fitting".

There's sun, sea and scenery!

SUNNY weather, a variety of walks and, of course, stunning scenery, greeted all who participated in the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival, organised by Valeways and ably supported by a number of other organisations.

Now in its sixth year, this festival is firmly established on the walking calendar and offered more walks than ever in a varied and interesting programme.

The programme offered something for everyone – geologists, historians, botanists, budding photographers or just old rockers with a 'Rocky Shore Ramble' around Ogmore! Walks varied in length from an eight mile walk around Cowbridge, visiting 'Castle, Court and Wells' and an eight mile trek at Southerndown, taking in views of the coast and river; to a two mile 'Nature at Night' walk at Porthkerry.

The festival ended with a stroll around Barry's newly-renovated seafront with the setting sun making a fitting backdrop.

This year's festival also coincided with the Vale of Glamorgan Music Festival and many, including Jane Hutt AM, took advantage of the opportunity to combine an inspiring piano recital at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major with an invigorating walk along some of the most dramatic coastlines in Wales.

Over 200 participated over the weekend, each capturing a memory of the festival – from visiting the grave of composer Joseph Parry at Saint Augustine's Church, Penarth, with a choral version of his most famous composition, 'Myfanwy' playing in the background, to being followed by a herd of inquisitive but friendly cows in a field at Wenvoe.

A uniquely surreal moment was experienced by a group of intrepid walkers on the 'Iolo Morganwg Heritage Walk' when they were greeted by a figure dressed as a giant bear, promoting a product at a local store! Yes, the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival had something for everyone!

CAROLYN GULLY

Moving food festival to May looks perfect timing for Cowbridge as traders sell out!

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
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www.ffotoimage.co.uk

MOVING to the May Bank Holiday proved to be a smart move for the Cowbridge festival of Food and Drink.

There were smiling faces all around. Visitors were pleased with the variety of produce and entertainment – while the traders were happy too – many sold all their stock hours before the end!

There was praise, too, for the Cowbridge Air Cadets, who proved to be a great asset to the event.

(See letter on page 2).

Follow us on Twitter @gem_news

Bowlers raise £920 for Alzheimer's Society

Sue Flower, Caryl Davies, Kay Edwards, Alan Drury, Phyllis Price and Diane Lloyd (lady captain).

ON April 17, Cowbridge Lady Bowlers organised a fashion show at the Cowbridge Bowling club, presented by Samantha B of Ewenny.

Models, and an exceptional afternoon tea, were provided by the ladies.

The event was attended by Alan Drury, community fundraiser for the South Wales Alzheimer's Society.

On May 23, the club celebrated its 20th anniversary, at which a cheque for £920 was presented to Alan, who thanked the ladies for their great effort in raising this most welcome sum. **PP**

Gathering of Bears at the Bear!

Pictured (above) are members of The Bears Association, which was founded nearly 40 years ago. Members meet at the Bear Hotel and invite visiting speakers to talk on various interesting subjects, which is then followed by a meal. At the AGM last week, a vote of thanks was given to Paul Porter, the outgoing chairman (plus a bottle of gin!) after nine years at the helm.

Paul was delighted to report that the association had regenerated itself in recent years with a goodly number of younger members, some of whom, including the chairman, now serve on the committee. Paul then congratulated the new chairman Alex Granville who takes over in the new season, and wished him, his committee and all the Bears well for the future.

Paul Porter is fifth from right, front row, and Alex Granville is fourth from right, front row.

(PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK).

VILLAGE CHILDREN RACE THEIR DUCKS AND RAFTS AT PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY...

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

ON Saturday, May 23, The Sportsman's Rest in Peterston-super-Ely hosted the Croes y Parc Chapel annual duck and mini raft race.

The event fitted in well with the Sportsman's Rest's four-day British beer festival, and the grounds were filled with tents and marquees, a barbecue and live music, plus a bouncy castle, puppet theatre, and games for the children.

Proceeds from the duck and raft race went to the village children's play station fund.

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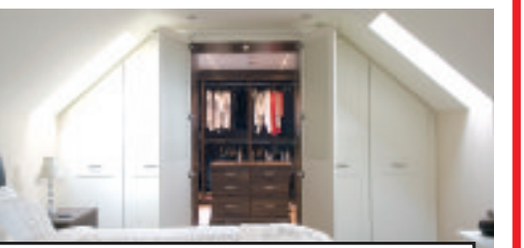

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'Big Talent' youngsters show big heart for people of Nepal

MY daughter, Shelley Norton, runs The Big Talent School – www.thebigtalent.co.uk – and we recently held a cake sale to raise some money for the Nepal earthquake appeal and some of the 'Big Talenters' and their families made cakes which we sold at our classes.

The youngsters are all aware of what has happened in Nepal and how so many children and their families have lost everything and are living in horrible circumstances, and indeed, how many thousands of children have died and they just wanted to do something to help.

Many of our Big Talent students are from the Vale, Barry, Penarth and Cardiff and we meet on Saturdays at Channel View Centre in Grangetown.

The photo (above) shows Big Talent's cast of Annie, holding up a cheque for £70. They will be putting on Annie at the theatre in St Cyres School, Penarth on July 2, 3 and 4. Details can be found on www.thebigtalent.co.uk.

LORRAINE BARRETT

Motion Control Dance gains charity status

MOTION Control Dance (MCD) has achieved charity status and is now an independent Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered number 1161551, it was announced this week.

Director Emma Mallam said: "MCD mission statement reflects its aims to 'advance the education of people all ages, living in the Vale of Glamorgan and the surrounding areas, in the performing arts, particularly the art of dance, for the benefit of the public, in particular through the provision of classes, training, workshops and performance opportunities.

"As an organisation, we are working to set up partnership projects in the Vale of Glamorgan, working across the spectrum and communities focussing on young people and adults with disabilities, mental health issues, obesity problems, the older generation, ethnic groups – as well as socially deprived members of the community – to increase general health and well being, through the medium of dance.

"We will undertake this work with a strong staff team and volunteers," she added.

The Mayor of the Vale, Coun Fred Johnson and the Mayor of Penarth, Coun Rosemary Cook, with staff and pupils from Headlands School.

Cyclists will carry Penarth pilgrimage pebbles to Spain

ACTION for Children Headlands School, Penarth is embarking on a special sponsored cycle ride along the historical pilgrimage route the Camino De Santiago.

The route starts in Southern France, then up and over the Pyrenees mountain range and along the width of Northern Spain to the Atlantic Ocean (800km/500 miles).

One of the most compelling stops on the Camino de Santiago will be the Cruz de Ferro (Iron Cross). Travellers typically carry a stone or pebble from home on their journey.

Upon arriving at the Cruz, they see a mound with a large, thin monument, topped by a cross. The mound is made of all the pebbles and stones left behind by thousands of travellers from all over the world through the ages.

The Vale group plan to add pebbles from Penarth beach to the mound.

Julian McTavish, from Action for Children Headlands School, said: "To me and to the committed pilgrims, the stone represents all the physical, mental, and even spiritual that weighs you down in life.

"And whether you realise it, acknowledge it, or deny it – that stone follows you on your journey."

The Mayor of the Vale, Coun Fred Johnson, and the Mayor of Penarth, Coun Rosemary Cook, have handed over the pebbles from Penarth beach and wished the team a safe journey and good luck with their fundraising.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Encouraging new businesses to bloom in the Vale

ALUN CAIRNS
reports to GEM readers

IN all parts of the Vale, I always spend time talking with independent high street traders.

I have an enormous amount of respect for anyone running a small business in the Vale – they took a risk and built a business to provide for themselves and their family.

The pressure of opening the doors every morning to trade successfully, day after day, should never be underestimated.

What I am keen to encourage is the taking away of barriers to further success, and for more people to take the plunge and start their own business in the Vale – opening a new shop and creating new and interesting jobs for local people.

My ongoing campaign to secure regeneration of Barry Island is all about creating an environment where people are able to invest in the Vale with confidence – just like the Danter family.

One of the common topics that I regularly discuss is car parking, it's an issue as important in Barry as it is right across the Vale.

From a high street trader's point of view - they want customers to be able to park near to the shops and businesses, while local residents and visitors want to be able to park conveniently close to a wide choice of retailers.

The local authority has an important role to play in creating a fertile trading environment. The best way of achieving a balance that allows traders to be successful should be considered carefully, with the aim of encouraging customers to choose shopping in the Vale over nearby Cardiff.

Quite simply, any plans that could have an impact on businesses in the Vale should be undertaken in conjunction with traders.

High Streets need to be seen as customer friendly – I want to see more people from across south Wales coming to the Vale to shop, and fewer going to Cardiff, because local shops have been supported in the right way and allowed to thrive.

More can be done, traders can come forward with suggestions on how to improve our retail offering and car parking provision on every high street. I would like to organise a quarterly meeting with traders from every town and village in the Vale.

Please get in touch if you would like to come along and offer some input into how we can allow local traders to operate successfully in our wonderful towns and villages.

Independent councillor hits out...

'There is never enough money for Dinas Powys'

by GEM REPORTER

A Dinas Powys councillor claims the needs of the village are being neglected by the Vale Council.

Independent councillor Chris Williams maintained there was lack of financial support for things such as the bridge on Cross Common Road and safe pathways.

He told The GEM: "The hard-working, long-suffering villagers of Dinas Powys must not be held to ransom in order to be given a safer junction to replace the decayed Cross Common road bridge which serves the south of the village.

"When I was offered a choice between a wider bridge or a new junction back in 2001, I assumed that it would be built in a year or maybe two – but no, I have learned that the Vale Council, which is located in Barry, is reluctant to serve areas like ours where the two largest political groups in the UK are consistently overlooked in local elections. The Labour party does not even put up candidates for local elections any more!"

Coun Williams said that while 'cycle ways' proliferate elsewhere, Dinas Powys was a notable exception.

"When I campaign for a safe cycle and walkway to enable our children to cycle and walk in and out of our village, there is never enough money for our needs.

"Instead, I see cycleways created elsewhere with little cost-benefit results.

"We in this village are being told to accept 50 houses (on fields off Cross Common Road, opposite Hebron Hall) which we do not need, on land which is susceptible to flooding, creating more traffic, more pollution, more sewage which could well be dumped in the Severn estuary at Barry – all this in order to replace a dangerous, narrow bridge, which would have been replaced decades ago if it were in Barry."

Coun Williams has been in touch with Welsh Water, which has carried out tests locally, to raise his concerns about potential flooding, and sewage disposal if housing goes ahead.

He said he was also concerned that the former St Cyres site, which is 33 acres, was being offered to developers, and insisted: "I'm not giving up on it – it should be for community use."

He added: "Whether it is a new bridge, a safe pathway, a sports facility, or a couple of quid on our birthday, there is never enough money for Dinas Powys."

• ***As The GEM was going to press, we received a detailed response from Coun Lis Burnett, the Vale Council cabinet member for regeneration.***

In the response, she makes it clear that she does not agree with Coun Williams' comments.

We will be publishing Coun Burnett's response in next week's GEM.

BRIDGE RESULTS

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge club for June 1:

1st Ray Smith & Gwynne Maddox 63.37%, 2nd= Julia Evans & Cherry Cadwallader 57.74% and Liam Sheridan & Glenda Roberts 57.74%.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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VALE PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB NEWS

Sanctuary gives members the chance to snap birds!

THIS month saw one of the most enjoyable practical evenings we've had for some time and on behalf of the club, I extend a massive thank you to the staff from the Festival Park Owl Sanctuary (www.theowlsanctuary.co.uk).

The Sanctuary brought along a mix of birds for members to photograph, ranging from ridiculously cute and cuddly babies, through to mightily impressive owls and birds of prey.

The weather was kind, allowing perches to be set up both inside and outside Ystradowen Village Hall, providing fantastic photographic opportunities for members.

Malcolm Jones, a retired steel worker, who has dedicated his life to caring and rehabilitating birds of prey, runs the sanctuary. Based on the old Garden Festival site in Ebbw Vale, their funding is totally dependent on visitor donations and income generated through appearances at shows, fetes and educational school visits.

They certainly provided a fantastic evening for us and we'd highly recommend them to others.

This month also saw the annual award of the Mervyn Williams' memorial trophy, our award to the best B&W photograph in memory of Mervyn who was one of the founder members of the club.

This year the trophy went to Terry Verrinder for his photograph of a street scene in Limoux, France.

As our regular club evenings draw to a close, it's time for us to turn our attention to our summer programme of photographic challenges – we provide a full range of suggested photographic subjects each week throughout the summer for members to photograph, meeting up in the Farmers Arms pub (Aberthin) on a Friday evening (8.30pm-ish) for a social evening and catch up. Further information is available on the website, and potential new members are welcome to join us.

For further information on the club, which is open to ages 16 and over (16-18 year olds must be accompanied by an adult), visit our website at www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk.

Whether you're looking to develop your skills as a serious photographer, just starting out with a new camera, or simply looking to take better photographs of the kids, you'll be most welcome.

ANDREW COLEMAN

Baby Owl by Gareth Impey.

Terry (left) being presented with the trophy by Mervyn's son, Gareth.

Members of Dinas Powys Rotary club who helped on the day.

Classic car show breaks record at Dinas Powys

MODERN and classic Mercedes, Ferraris and Jaguars were among the cars put on show to the public in Sully at the weekend, as part of a Rotary Club of Dinas Powys charity fundraising event.

The third Vale of Glamorgan Classic Car Show took place at the Sully Sports and Social Club grounds and with an entry of over 300 cars and motorbikes exhibiting the excellent weather contributed to a record crowd.

This year's event, as nominated by president Colin Jones, raised money for Wales Air Ambulance and other local charities.

Dinas Powys Rotary Club member and classic car enthusiast David Wiltshire said: "We hosted the first show two years ago as an experiment, but were encouraged to make it an annual event when around 140 cars turned up and helped raise much money for our nominated charity at the time, Motor Neurone, and other local charities."

He said: "What started as a small event for friends and locals, quickly gathered momentum. Last year we had approximately 180 cars on display and 1,500 visitors.

"With the larger space available at the Sully Sports and Social Club and with word and media coverage spreading, this year we had roughly double the number of cars and visitors."

As well as a host of unusual and often extremely expensive supercars there were interesting historic vehicles including a 1928 Morris Empire, 1934 Singer Le Mans and a 1927 Talbot.

The car of the show, Mr Peter Wood and his 1938 Wolseley 10-40.

The estimated 2,000 visitors who attended were granted exceptional weather in which to enjoy a live band, a bar, the cars and bikes, refreshments, side stalls of motoring memorabilia and a classic fun fair.

David added that the Dinas Powys Rotary Club has no plans to put the brakes on the event any time soon and is already looking forward to next year's event.

He said: "It is firmly established both as a classic car show and a community event. The feedback from exhibitors and visitors has been great and it has the added bonus of raising funds for our nominated charity and important local amenities. We have already confirmed the date for next year as Monday, May 30."

furniture clearance event

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G PLAN UPHOLSTERY

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Donna dedicates her 50th birthday to Marie Curie...

DONNA SURRIDGE marked her 50th birthday "a little differently" this year ... when with the help of colleagues and pupils at Ysgol Sant Baruc, she decided to raise money for the Marie Curie charity.

So far Donna has taken part in Swimathon, swimming 100 lengths, raising £200 and organised a disco for the school children in the school hall raising £401.

"As I suffer with re-occurring skin cancer, I strongly believe that it's important to help these charities, so that people can seek help when it's needed, and to raise awareness of the wonderful work undertaken by Marie Curie and all their volunteers," she explained.

"I'd like to thank the parents, staff and pupils of Ysgol Sant Baruc for supporting me through my personal battle with skin cancer. I'd also like to pay tribute to myAuntie Shirley, who raised thousands of pounds for Marie Curie and she has inspired me to do the same.

"I will continue to do all I can to raise money for this amazing charity and to urge others to join in any way they can."

Georgina Burke, Community Fundraiser at the Cardiff and Vale Hospice, said: "This donation will help us support patients with terminal illnesses and their families locally.

"We offer a number of different services from the hospice including in patient wards, day therapy unit, a helper service and carers service."

Donna Surridge presents the cheque to the chairperson of the Marie Curie Barry fundraising group. Picture by Graham Clarke.

Consultant off to Nepal to aid disaster victims

AN ABMU consultant is flying to Nepal this summer, to help victims of the earthquake disaster.

Urologist Amol Pandit will be part of a team from south Wales that will spend a week in hospitals in Kathmandu and in rural communities.

Although the arrangements for the trip in early July have not yet been finalised, six to eight clinicians from University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, and Morriston in Swansea will be involved.

Mr Pandit, who works mainly in Morriston and Neath Port Talbot hospitals, said he hoped one or two of his ABMU colleagues would join him.

Everyone involved will give up their own time to join the mission, and will pay their own costs.

Mr Pandit said: "We will not have a planned list. We will just go there and see what we can do to help in the theatres in the main hospital in Kathmandu and in rural hospitals.

"We will be using our expertise to help local doctors get the best support to deliver the treatment that is needed.

"I don't expect there to be much urology work, so I will do whatever I can to help, even if that is just assisting in the operating theatres."

Last month's earthquake left more than 8,000 people dead and more than 18,000 injured.

As well as medical expertise, the south Wales team will be taking a cash donation to the Nepal Disaster Fund.

The money will be raised at a special performance by world-class Kathak dancer Swati Wangnoo Tiwari in National Museum Cardiff's Reardon Smith Theatre on Monday, June 15 at 7pm. Tickets cost £20. To reserve a ticket to collect on the door, email *apandit@sky.com*.

Mr Pandit said: "I hope people will buy tickets and attend the concert to show support. As we are taking the money to Nepal there will be no administration cost, so every penny raised will go to the people who need it."

Consultant Amol Pandit.

Answer the hedgehog SOS!

HEDGEHOGS are now as endangered as the tiger. This means they are on the critical list: pesticides, predation and loss of habitat, are all underlying problems and if we don't do anything, the humble hedgehog will be gone in the next decade.

Can you imagine the UK without the hedgehog? I certainly can't. So what can we do?

Hedgehogs travel over an area about the size of two football fields to find food. As well as roads, we have put walls and fences in their way, because we build boundaries in our gardens to separate them from neighbours.

Now, of course, we all want a little privacy, but if you put a hedgehog-sized hole in the bottom of the fence or remove a brick from the wall, the hedgehogs have a safe travel pass across the gardens and can forage more widely.

Such a small thing can make a really big difference to the life of the hedgehog and in return, they will eat your slugs and snails.

Don't use slug pellets as these will also poison your hedgehogs!

For more information and ideas, go to http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/pages/link-your-garden.html and if you find a hurt or sick hedgehog, ring South Wales hedgehog rescue on 07557 646773.

Teena Clouston, Llantwit Major.

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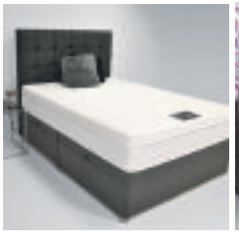

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More affordable homes for rural Vale...

Council's new LDP stands firm on housing numbers

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Vale Council has released its finalised Local Development Plan (LDP), and anyone looking for a major change of direction will be disappointed.

In recent months, the GEM has received many letters from residents and it is likely that those who wrote about the lack of affordable housing in the Vale will be encouraged – while those looking for cuts in the number of houses to be built will be decidely unhappy.

The council is planning for 10,450 homes to be built by 2026, while campaigners have argued that Welsh Government statistics support the view that only 5,800 need be planned.

However, the council points to a recent policy clarification letter by Carl Sargeant AM, the Minister for Housing and Regeneration, where it says: "*For the avoidance of any future doubt, local authorities must seek to provide for the level of housing required as the result of the analysis of* ***all*** *relevant sources of evidence, rather than relying solely on the Welsh Government's housing projections*."

The council says that a smaller total of homes is incompatible with its main focus, which is "*the provision of the jobs, infrastructure and affordable housing, that make communities of all sizes sustainable*".

In laymen's terms, the council seems to be arguing that if it plans to bring jobs into the Vale – and it has a target of more than 10,000 extra – then extra homes need to be there as well.

The three most important areas for planned employment growth are:

• Land south of Junction 34 of the M4 (51.1 hectares).

• Land adjacent to Cardiff Airport and Port Road, Rhoose (77.4 hectares).

• the Aerospace Business Park, St Athan Rhoose (305 hectares).

The council's review of the housing projection issue (which is 70 pages of complex statistical analysis) also insists that the lower housing provision figures are based on trends established during the housing crash, saying: "*The Vale of Glamorgan, like other areas, has experienced extremely low house completion rates when compared to that of the pre-recession years*."

Criticism over the decision to stay with the 10,450 homes figure is inevitable (The GEM has already received letters), but the council is aiming to deflect that criticism by increasing the percentage of affordable housing in developments – particularly in the rural Vale.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Council, said: "The consultation process, coupled with the hard work of our planning officers, has ensured that we are absolutely confident that we now have a local development plan that is not only sound but is the best possible blueprint on which to continue the regeneration of the Vale.

"The plan sets out how the council will manage the use of land up until 2026. The number of homes for which land has been allocated within it remains at 10,450.

"However, on the basis of both responses to the consultation and recent trends in the housing market, the affordable housing targets set out in the plan have been increased from 30 per cent to 35 per cent in the rural south of the Vale (an area that includes Llantwit Major, Rhoose and St Athan) and from 35 per cent to 40 per cent in the rural east Vale and Penarth. Affordable housing targets in Barry will remain at 30 per cent".

The plan estimates that an additional 10,610 jobs could be created in the Vale and also sets out how the development of the county will be planned in order to reduce the number of residents who commute out of the county each day for work.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This plan is about building communities, not houses. That is why it focuses on the jobs and infrastructure that sustain communities, and the affordable housing that allows local people to set up home in them.

"Our LDP includes proposals for job creation, maintaining community services and providing new transport infrastructure. This is the blueprint by which we will continue to regenerate all areas of the Vale."

Coun Chris Franks (Plaid Cymru) said many people will be disappointed with the report. He said, "Apart from individual sites, there is a great deal of concern about the sheer number of houses.

"Plaid exposed the weakness in the projected housing need by quoting the Welsh Governments own figures. We have proved that the Vale needs nearer half the number proposed.

"So the Vale Council has been forced to desperately include additional considerations to seek to justify the numbers.

"Also the routes of potential by-passes around Dinas Powys and Llysworney have been specifically excluded from the plan.

"There is little response regarding residents' concerns that the road infrastructure is not able to cope with this extra traffic generated by 10,000 properties.

"Again there is little reference to rail services. The Welsh Government has failed to ensure the services to Cardiff and Bridgend are upgraded to cope with the demand.

"The Vale Council and the Welsh Government simply want more houses and they are determined to have their way".

Tim Knowles is a regular letter writer to The GEM and he said: "I have read the report on the consultation and many relevant parts of the appendices.

"I have been horrified to find that the detailed objections and comments of the many residents who have participated in the consultation have been ignored.

"If ever there was a case of 'We have made up our minds and will not be confused by the facts', this is it".

The report on the new LDP will now go through the authority's committee system before being presented to a full council meeting on June 24.

If approved at this meeting, the plan and supporting documentation will then be submitted to Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination.

Following completion of the examination, the inspector will issue a report which may recommend further changes to the LDP. Any recommendations will be binding.

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8 Windows Any Size ANY SIZE	£4,784	£100.43	£6,025.80
9 Windows Any Size ANY SIZE	£5,382	£112.98	£6,788.80
10 Windows Any Size ANY SIZE	£5,980	£125.53	£7,531.80

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Out and About with The GEM

What's on, where and when in your area

Art society demo

TODAY (Thursday, June 4) Cowbridge Art Society welcomes local artist and tutor Chris Taylor who will give a demonstration of painting a botanical subject in watercolour.

On June 11, Cardiff artist and tutor, David Gould, will give two talks: one on painting landscape direct from the subject; and another with a general historical emphasis, on landscape painting from the ancient to the contemporary world – including those artists who have influenced him.

Both evenings promise to be fascinating, and members can expect to learn from two very experienced artists.

Cowbridge Art Society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm–9pm) and visitors and new members are welcome.

For details, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D881:

- **£2,000:** Winner from Tonypandy.
- **The rollover, which was £12,000, went to a winner from Blackwood.**
- **£10:** 391130, 975189, 420159, 128595, 950466, 499357, 811521, 256753, 274602, 865532, 680889, 532590, 414157, 253453, 426807, 786002, 674341, 000790, 001538, 000467.
- **£5:** 141458, 535196, 575422, 610324, 551264, 983896, 366659, 197274, 201564, 638555, 745394, 327122, 757137, 228174, 948526, 173669, 814704, 653047, 252805, 541856, 268968, 849290, 335231, 852230, 357053, 342727, 670970, 215754, 288221, 314263, 762390, 330311, 652782, 493912, 831011, 619143, 357133, 393007, 634666, 343717, 957760, 754273, 547276, 432105, 127263, 841156, 924326, 495978, 237719, 809175, 312938, 387790, 153056, 692195, 343516, 329556, 502294, 516297, 547744, 447679.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Local band's rugby gig

LOCAL band Lost In Chemistry are performing free to help Barry RFC raise funds for the under-14s squad, who are hoping to tour in 2016.

The four-man rock band are led by front man Dom Griggs, alongside another former pupil of Bro Morgannwg and bassist, Ben Thomas.

Jake Cotton, former pupil of Barry Boys is on drums and Dan Whitfield of Bishop of Llandaf School plays lead guitar.

This week, it was announced that they have made it to the final round of the Welsh National Eisteddfod's 'Battle of the Bands' competition organised by BBC Radio Cymru's C2 in conjunction with Mentrau Iaith Cymru, and will be performing at this year's Eisteddfod.

For tickets to the fundraising gig on Saturday, June 6, 8pm at Barry Rugby Club, or if you are interested in joining the under14s squad, phone Carol on 0776 801 7673.

First Aid sessions

WELSH HEARTS are holding free CPR and defibrillator training sessions in Cowbridge and Penarth on Monday, June 8 at Aroma Coffee Shop (located in the Waitrose car park), 2 Birds Lane, Cowbridge CF71 7YP; and on Tuesday, June 9 at Paget Rooms in Penarth. Both sessions start at 7pm.

After the session those taking part will be given a certificate. Children 10 years and above are welcome to attend with their parents.

Welsh Hearts, in partnership with strategic partners, aims to equip people with vital skills that could save a life. Training will be given in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and how to use a defibrillator.

For more information, contact Welsh Hearts on 02920 786521, or email fundraising@welshhearts.org.

Plants fair

THERE will be an unusual plants fair on Saturday, June 13 from 10am – 4pm, in Old Hall Gardens, Cowbridge CF71 7AH.

It will be an oppportunity to meet growers and gain advice.

Free entry and parking.

Mental health

VALE residents can find out about local mental health services at the next meeting of the Vale Co-Creating Healthy Change forum on June 16.

This free event, organised by the Co-Creating Healthy Change Project at Diverse Cymru will be held in Cowbridge Town Hall, High Street, CF71 7DD from 10.30am – 1pm.

Roz Warden from Diverse Cymru said: "Our forum members are keen to find more about mental health services in the Vale. We are delighted that guest speakers at the next Vale Co-Creating Healthy Change forum will be from Cardiff and Vale Action for Mental Health and the Mental Health Clinical Board.

"We hope that people will come along to find out more about mental health sevices and put forward any questions/views they may have."

Call Roz Warden or Shelagh Maher on 02920 368888, or email Roz.Warden@diversecymru.org.uk or Shelagh.Maher@diversecymru.org.uk.

Falls trip

VALE of Glamorgan Association of National Trust members and volunteers are reminded to book their place on the forthcoming trip to Llanelly House and Aberdulais Falls on Wednesday, June 17 departing from behind the Town Hall, Cowbridge at 9.30am. Cost £15.

Armed Forces Day in Penarth

PENARTH Town Council will mark Armed Forces Day on Saturday, June 20, with displays and activities at West House from 11am – 3pm.

Armed Forces Day is being celebrated around the UK this month and is a chance for the public to show their suppport for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community, from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets.

Penarth's free event will include weaponry and memorabilia displays, 1940s games on the lawn, a military ancestry search station, free wartime refreshments and a brass band performance.

The event begins at 11am and continues until 3pm, in and around West House on Stanwell Road, Penarth.

Contact Alice Turner, West House, Stanwell Road, Penarth CF64 2YG; 02920 700721; 02920 712574; aturner@penarthtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Bonsai show

ABERKENFIG and District Bonsai Club holds a Bonsai Show at Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig, Bridgend CF32 9PR on Saturday, June 20 from 10am to 4pm.

Free admission, light refreshments available.

Charity tea

A CREAM tea is being arranged in Llancarfan Village Hall on June 20 at 3pm to raise money for Mind, LATCH and Air Ambulance.

Tickets are available at £5 each from Ralph and Jackie Prole (01446 781238); Sue Taylor (01446 781453) and Ann Ferris (01446 781350).

There will be a superb raffle with first prize of £100 travel voucher, second prize of £50, third prize of £50 plus other prizes.

Free course

VALE Council-led Barry Communities First, in partnership with the WEA, is running a free customer service skills course for those interested in working in call centres or in a retail environment on June 24 – 26 from 9.30am – 4.30pm at Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

In order to be eligible for this course you must live in a Barry Communities First area that includes parts of Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland, Court and Gibbonsdown.

Contact 01446 709432, or visit w.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org

Charity seeks to help Haiti

A CHARITY group that is raising funds to help the people of Haiti – 'the poorest country in the western hemisphere' – is to ask the Vale Council to consider making a twinning arrangement with part of the island.

It is five years since a devastating earthquake struck Haiti. Around 200,000 people lost their lives as a result.

The charity 'Haiti Hospital Appeal' continues to raise funds for the island and to date it has built a sports centre and a hospital – the hospital includes a spinal care unit, all with state-of-the-art equipment.

Godfrey Knight, a spokesman for the Barry fundraisers, said their next event will be a concert at Holy Trinity Church, Barry, featuring the Barry Male Voice Choir, at a date yet to be announced.

Mr Knight said: "Vale AM Jane Hutt and Michelle Smith are honorary patrons of the appeal, and Ms Hutt has agreed to approach the Vale Council to see if a twinning arrangement can be put in place.

"There is a precedent for this in Germany, where some university cities have twinned with towns in Equatorial Africa for many years."

GARDENS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THE following will be open to the public, as part of the National Gardens Scheme on June 14 at Llysworney, Cowbridge, Glamorgan, CF71 7NQ.

Llysworney is a charming small rural village with church, duck pond, children's play area and friendly people!

Four gardens will be open, together with St Tydfil's Church, which dates back to the 13th century.

The gardens in this group are: Brocton House, Great House, Sydney House Farm, Wolf House.

***Wolf House** has a walled cottage garden on two levels with a variety of perennials and roses.*

African summer house offers a quiet place to sit and ponder!

***Great House** is16th century grade II listed, with terraced garden and a variety of trees, shrubs and perennials.*

***Brocton House** has a pretty terraced garden and large/fruit garden overlooking farmland with barn and wildflower area.*

***Sydney House Farm** is a wildlife-friendly garden in over ½ acre bordering countryside.*

The garden is planted to encourage lots of wildlife.

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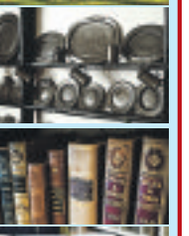
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FONMON CASTLE

San Andreas smashes and crashes – BUT FEELS ALL TOO FAMILIAR

IT just isn't blockbuster season without Dwayne Johnson.

Having already showed up in *Fast & Furious 7*, the action hero now takes headline position in *San Andreas*.

Johnson plays Ray, a rescue-chopper pilot who, when a gigantic earthquake hits California, must embark on a dangerous journey to rescue his ex-wife Emma (Carla Gugino) and his estranged daughter Blake (Alexandra Daddario) who are caught up in the disaster... On the face of it, *San Andreas* feels like a riff on the disaster films of yesteryear – the 'super-size' natural disaster that strikes, the heroic male lead, the ex-wife/daughter in peril (two for the price of one here) and more bang and action for your buck than usual.

It's certainly a film unabashed in its use of familiar tropes to create a viewing experience for the audience, but is it all brawn and little brain?

The answer is yes, *San Andreas* a film that spares no expense in showing nature at its most destructive, but beneath the wanton destruction there's only predictable characters and story elements.

Of course, the film isn't aiming for the moon, nor does it have any pretensions to be anything more than popcorn fodder, and in that sense it works out just fine. You have the always watchable, always dependable Dwayne Johnson as the hero of the piece, and there is little this man could do on screen that you would want to avoid.

He is a staggeringly charismatic presence on screen, and the same goes here, his usual heroic bombast dialled down a degree as a man on a mission to save his family from the disasters around them. His skills patently lie in this genre, but when asked to dig a little deeper he certainly shows more acting ability than some his fellow action stars.

Both Carla Gugino and Alexandra Daddario are thankfully given a little more depth than pure damsels in distress, both having their moments to shine, particularly the latter, whose resourcefulness manages to save the day for two British brothers she finds herself allied with, while Paul Giamatti fills the role of 'experienced actor offering gravitas' as a professor capable of predicting the earthquakes adequately.

The real star of the show here is the earthquake and the perilous set-pieces our characters must navigate in order to survive, and with credit to director Brad Peyton, he does a sterling job.

His CV isn't the greatest (*Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore* anyone?) but Peyton seems well-versed in the disaster movie conventions and creates some genuinely thrilling and well-staged moments of action, in particular Emma's attempted escape from a building as the first stage of the earthquake strikes.

But as thrilling and cleverly executed as these set-pieces are, you can't help but feel a sense of deja vu; after all, what is a blockbuster film these days without some city being smashed to smithereens by either a disaster, an alien invasion or a battle between super-powered beings?

As impressive as the action is, it feels all too familiar, while a gag concerning one character's demise falls flat when innocents around that person are also killed; realistic, yes, but a moment that other films have executed far better and with a greater sense of satisfaction (see Gennaro's death in *Jurassic Park* as evidence of this).

It all adds up to something that oozes blockbuster scale and scope, but doesn't really grab you; you do care about the characters (mainly thanks to the actors in those roles) but you can see the outcome a mile away, and what's another city being destroyed in the grand filmic scheme of things?

Ultimately, it makes *San Andreas* a pleasing, but very slight and overly-familiar, offering.

VERDICT – An action blockbuster headlined by Dwayne Johnson is always a good bet, but *San Andreas* doesn't quite hit the mark. Its carnage is staged surprisingly well by director Brad Peyton, and the cast do a decent job, but it's a case of destruction familiarity breeding audience contempt, the main selling point of the film being a case of 'seen-it-all-before', which lessens the impact of this disaster flick. *Average*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004), *Twister* (1996).

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

Social bingo

LAST month's social bingo session in Cowbridge proved its usual success and won two lines this time, not just his usual one!

Two young ladies shared a very generous Snowball – *whatever that is. I assume they had to rush home and put it in the fridge for security!*

There were other notable winners, but they refused to have their names publicised. I must find a way to stop people sending in begging letters!

Edwina, the raffle queen, was sunning herself on some tropical island, so Jan and her grandaughter Jordanne, carried out that task very efficiently. Many thanks to you both!

Do come along with your friends to our next meeting this evening (Thursday, May 4) at 7pm for 7.30pm at Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall. Don't forget to bring your bingo dabber and wine. See you there!

BASIL WATKINS

Call to help out at Victorian Fayre

THE organisers of Llantwit Major's Victorian Fayre are holding an information evening for potential volunteers this Sunday, June 7.

With the day less than three weeks away, the Llantwit Major Events Group are confident that they can build on the success of the Fayre two years ago, but volunteers are still needed to help the day go smoothly.

A spokesman said: "More will be happening in the town. to give just one example, two years ago we had 30 stalls, whereas this time we are expecting 90!"

Volunteers are needed to help with general organisation in the morning as the streets are being prepared, and during the day. There will also be a curtain-raising event at Llantwit Major beach on Friday, June 19.

The volunteer meeting will be in the Heritage Centre (next to the Town hall) at 7pm on June 7.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Valeways walk...

Sunday, June 7 at 2pm, 'The Salmon Leaps', starting at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will hold a surgery this Friday, June 5 from 4pm – 6pm at Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry CF62 7EH.

No appointment necessary.

Call centre visit

VALE of Glamorgan Council-led Barry Communities First have organised a site visit to the Admiral Insurance Call Centre in Cardiff on Tuesday, June 10 with a bus leaving Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry at 8.30am.

For more information, call 01446 709321, or visit www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org

Send in your news items to:
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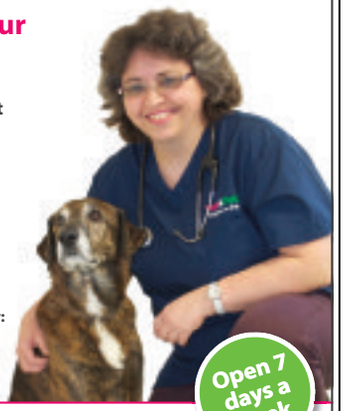

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THINGS STARTING TO *BUZZ* AT ABERTHAW...

The beekeeper checking on the Aberthaw bees.

THERE'S been a new delivery at the Aberthaw Cement Plant – of Apis mellifera – that's honey bees, for those who aren't familiar with all things small and buzzing!

We now have five bee colonies at the plant, helping the local ecological cycle and also supporting local farmers by pollinating crops, a spokesperson reports.

The cement plant has lots of areas, close to the quarry, that offer a lot of natural habitats, and facilitating biodiverse species on site is very important to the Lafarge Tarmac team. Tasked with supporting these aims, environmental coordinator Kara Bennett has championed the addition of the new bee hives to add to the site's wildlife population.

She explained: "Our site is positioned between two river estuaries, the River Thaw and the River Kenson. We have land near the quarry that we don't use specifically and which naturally offers sites of biodiversity.

"The quarry is already home to wetland birds and some species of newts, with regular visits by flocks of Canadian geese each year.

"Part of my role is to make the most of what the plant naturally has to offer and the unique environment of the quarry. Setting aside space for our new bee colonies seemed a natural enhancement that would support our biodiversity programme.

"The bee hives are being set up and will be looked after by our family of experienced bee keepers – the Frasures, who are helping colleagues at the site learn more about the bees and how to care for them on site," Kara added.

Girls prove good judges of stock!

A FOUR-woman team of Glamorgan young farmers is celebrating success in the stockjudging competition at the Royal Bath and West Show, on Saturday.

Competitors were required to judge a ring of four animals based on their readiness for commercial sale. Placing the animals in order of suitability for the meat trade, competitors had a short time to write their reasons before presenting them to a judge within a two-minute time restriction.

The team, made up of Wick YFC and Neath YFC members did extremely well, with individual results as follows. Dairy: Catrin Hill first and Lowri Davies third. Beef: Catrin Hill second and Katie Evans third. Pigs: Angharad Williams first and Catrin Hill third. Lambs: Lowri Davies first. The team were placed second overall and individual stockman placing were awarded to Lowri in second place, closely followed by team mate Catrin in third place.

Lowri said: "It's great to experience the competition away from our home turf and to be successful is just the icing on top of the cake. I would recommend any young farmers or potential members to always take every opportunity that comes your way, as you never know where it will lead or who you will meet."

ABOVE: Lowri Fflur Davies, Catrin Hill and Angharad Williams are pictured with their awards.

Flybe welcomed to Cardiff Airport

REGIONAL Conservative AM, Andrew R T Davies, has welcomed news that Flybe is to establish a new base at Cardiff Airport.

He commented this week: "This is welcome news for the airport, which relies on the availability of a wide range of routes to compete with nearby Bristol," adding: "The Welsh Government has ploughed a great deal of cash into Carwyn Jones' pet project, with little sign of meaningful improvement to date.

"Whilst the destinations that Flybe plans to serve will be attractive to Welsh trip-makers, it is vital that the airport is able to meet the needs of all potential passengers.

"Welsh Conservatives want to see the airport thriving so that taxpayers can see a return on their investment when it is eventually returned to private ownership," the South Wales Central AM concluded.

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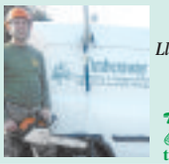
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RAISING THE ROOF TO UPGRADE CONSERVATORIES

Once the preserve of the wealthy who wanted to cultivate exotic species of flora, today it's estimated that around one in five UK homes have a conservatory.

Offering additional light, with relatively fast construction times, up to 200,000 conservatories were built per year during the height of their popularity.

However, some homeowners found that the full glare of the sun in summer and chilly temperatures in winter made older conservatories uncomfortable, with the only solution being a costly rebuild.

The good news is that building technology has moved on and, as with glazing, there are some thermally efficient roof options now on the market that can be added to the existing conservatory structure.

'Activ' Glass roof

A straightforward upgrade for those who want to keep an uninterrupted view of the blue skies up above is to opt for a modern, low-emissivity (low-e) 'Activ', energy efficient glass roof.

Helping to reduce the variations in temperature associated with older, traditional glass or polycarbonate roofs, 'Activ' low-e glass helps cut solar glare, protect furniture from fading and keep heat in during the winter months.

For even greater insulation there are now two solid roof options that can be retrofitted to an existing conservatory, without the need for significant structural modifications.

Tiled roof

The new, lightweight, tiled roof takes its design cues from the slates and tiles found on most UK houses. As a result it works well on most properties and comes in a range of finishes to match any existing architecture.

Created using aluminium panels, with Kingspan insulation, these roofs can achieve a u value of just 0.18, similar to that of a normally constructed, modern roof.

With this option, the interior of the conservatory can include a plastered ceiling with down-lighters or even roof windows to keep the view of the stars.

LivinRoof

For a more contemporary feel, there is a third option called the LivinRoof. This modern roof combines the sleek lines of a glass roof with the shade and thermal efficiency of a solid conservatory roof to create something that looks and feels very contemporary.

With the LivinRoof, entire panels can be replaced with glass to create a hybrid solid and glass roof meaning the homeowner can choose where to have shaded areas and where to have more light.

Once again there is the option to plaster the interior ceiling and add down-lighters. The LivinRoof also comes with the option of adding orangery detailing to enhance the interior and exterior styling of the conservatory.

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THE spring summer season is well under way at Samantha B with lots of your favourite labels, including Olsen, Bianca, Emrico, Poppy, Adini and Marble – to name a just a few!

Olsen still remains a favourite with lovely coordinated separates in gorgeous colours, something for every occasion.

Bianca is also wowing us with its feminine tailoring, lovely floaty maxi dresses in navy and lime. Lace tops matched with a pair of this season's must haves, a pair of 7/8s and, voila, you're good to go!

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Thank you, teacher!

WITH the end of term fast approaching, many of us will want to thank teachers for an enjoyable school year. If your child is in year-6 and 11, you might also be thinking about their move up to secondary school or sixth form in September.

The Pencil Case has a lovely range of 'Thank You Teacher' cards and thoughtful gifts, all at sensible prices.

They are also the official supplier of Cowbridge Comprehensive School uniform and have everything in stock all year round. So if you are moving up in September, pop in and see what you will need!

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POLICE URGE PUBLIC... *'Dial 101 if it's a non-emergency'*

SOUTH Wales Police have launched an awareness campaign to let the public know that the best and quickest way to contact police is to dial 101 for all non-emergency calls.

Performance and response times for 101 in South Wales have vastly improved and calls are now picked up quickly 24 hours a day, seven days a week, say the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner in a joint statement this week.

"Here in south Wales, calls to 101 – which is the national non-emergency police number which connects callers directly to the local police service – are being answered quicker than ever before and we are now getting consistent satisfaction from callers," they say.

"Calling 101 costs only 15p, whether it is from a landline or a mobile phone, and no matter what time of day you call or how long you are on the phone."

Celebration of song!

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl is staging a concert to raise funds for local and international charities at All Saints' Church in Porthcawl at 7.30pm on Wednesday, June 17.

The theme will be a celebration of 300 years of music and will feature the well-known local choral group Col Canto, and also Ivor Williams.

Tickets (£8) can be obtained from Rotary president Wayne Warlow, by telephoning 01656 773389, 07976 324414; or by e-mailing wayne@buffettwarlow.freeserve.co.uk

ABERTHIN PUB TO OFFER A GOURMET EXPERIENCE

by PHILIP IRWIN

RIGHT: Ton Watts Jones and Alex Howells (right) alongside the Hare and Hounds' vegetable garden

BIG changes are planned for the Hare and Hounds pub in Aberthin, now that chef Tom Watts Jones has returned to the Vale after completing his culinary education in London.

He is keen to match all he has learned in top restaurants with the quality local produce that is on his doorstep in the Vale.

Tom said: "After leaving Cowbridge Comprehensive School, I was lucky enough to be given my first post at Odette's, working for Bryn Williams".

Over his time in London, Tom extended his experience and his last post was as sous chef at the St John restaurant in Smithfield, run by Fergus Henderson and famous for its 'nose to tail' approach to cooking.

Work is under way to extend the dining room, where Tom plans to offer a seasonal menu that will change on a daily basis, while Alex Howells will be in charge of the bar, which will retain its traditional feel, although bar snacks cooked by the chef will offer something extra.

Alex said: "We will be keeping the popular Hancocks HB and Wye Valley HPA, but introducing two guest ales which will change on a regular basis.

"Also, Tom will be preparing strawberry puree to serve in a strawberry prosecco, or sloe gins using local berries."

Welsh restaurants serving Welsh food are no surprise these days, but Tom is aiming for 'Vale of Glamorgan' food.

It helps that his parents farm six acres in the village, and to supplement that produce, vegetable gardens have been created in the pub's beer garden – which will offer al fresco dining when the weather allows.

Beef, pork, venison and lamb will, it goes without saying, be sourced very locally, although some of the fish and shellfish may have to travel all the way from Carmarthen!

At the moment, Tom and family are hard at work getting ready for the official opening day on Father's Day (June 20) and the menu gives an idea of what is in store.

Starters include 'deep fried pork and laverbread', or 'crispy pig cheek with chicory, mustard and sorrell'.

Tempting main courses include 'crispy mackerel, violet artichokes, courgette and crab', or 'duck breast, duck fat chips and gravy'.

A sample dessert is 'buttermilk pudding, honeycomb and strawberries'.

The following day (June 21) the restaurant opens in earnest, with a new menu.

The Vale is already a great place to eat out – and it could well be about to get even better!

Bridgend residents are asked to vote for favourite outdoor spot

LOCAL residents are being asked to vote for Bridgend county borough's most popular outdoor space.

They are invited to put forward their favourite parks, nature reserves, beaches, fields, woodlands, coastal paths and other open spaces by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

After a top 10 has been compiled, an online vote will determine the winner as part of BCBC's #MyGreenSpace campaign to encourage residents to enjoy the great and suggest ideas for making local beauty spots more accessible.

To share your favourite outdoor space in Bridgend county borough, Tweet @BridgendCBC using the hashtag #MyGreenSpace or email biodiversity@bridgend.gov.uk.

One lucky person who nominates their favourite place will be selected to win a special Family Ranger Experience at Bryngarw House and Country Park for four people.

Coun Hywel Williams, the council's cabinet member for communities, said: "This campaign provides an opportunity for people to highlight the outdoor spaces that are important to them. It could be a well-known place that springs to mind such as Rest Bay, or Newbridge Fields, or it could be a lesser known gem that means a lot to you and your family.

"The reasons for why that place is so special could vary from it being a perfect spot for a pushchair stroll, a picnic, a run, or somewhere you like to relax.

"There will be so many reasons, and the campaign will give people a chance to shout about why they love these places so much.

"As ever, we'd also like to encourage people to contact the council to highlight any issues surrounding fly-tipping and general littering that are spoiling our green spaces."

The problems can be reported to the council by calling 01656 643643, or by emailing talktous@bridgend.gov.uk

Follow us on Twitter @gem_news

The Vale Council has announced details of its finalised Local Development Plan (LDP). *Here are two responses from GEM readers...*

Darren Farm: change of Plan

THE Deposit LDP consultation representations summary report and council responses, together with the schedule of proposed focused changes, were presented to the Vale Council cabinet for approval this week.

This will be followed by consideration for comment by the three relevant council committees during June and by full council for final approval on June 24, before submission to the Welsh Government for independent examination.

Among the proposed changes is an enlargement of the site of the proposed housing, school and link road development at Darren Farm Cowbridge by 60 per cent over the area proposed in the Deposit LDP, making an even larger negative impact on this important rural landscape.

Even more worrying is that the plan of the modified site is neither the original one nor the amended one (ASA 11) proposed in the alternative site consultation process by Asbri Consultants, on behalf of the landowner.

Instead, the western boundary of the new site follows the exact line of the link road proposed in the premature CEG planning application, which has yet to be determined by the planning committee, giving it a status which could prejudice the decision of that committee.

The focused changes report also recommends an increase in the proportion of affordable homes for housing developments in most of the rural Vale from 35 per cent to 40 per cent.

This would make such housing (a discount to market prices) less affordable in an area where market prices are the highest in the Vale.

It compares illogically with 35 per cent for Llantwit Major, Rhoose and St Athan and 30 per cent for Barry; areas which provide far more local employment opportunities than the rural Vale.

The proposed changes will be submitted for public consultation to be announced in July, which will provide residents with an opportunity to respond to these proposed changes.

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/council/minutes,_agendas_and_reports/agendas/cabinet/2015/15-06-01.aspx

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2015/15-06-01/Appendix-4---Schedule-of-Focussed-and-Minor-Changes.pdf

Chris Pearce, Cowbridge.

INFRASTRUCTURE NOT A CONSTRAINING FACTOR?

THE Vale Council has responded to my comments on the latest draft Local Development Plan: it was within the 10 appendices attached to the cabinet report last week.

Readers may want to see the complete response which can be found on page 445 of the 3,386 paged Appendix 2.

One of my main concerns has always been the effect housing developments will have on Barry town's infrastructure, especially the loss of businesses; amenities; facilities; townscapes, and the impact on the strategic road network.

The council's response was: "The LDP is supported by a substantial evidence base regarding infrastructure and site deliverability. Detailed site assessments have been undertaken on the allocated sites and the council considers these to provide a range and choice of deliverable sites. Infrastructure is therefore not considered to be a key constraining factor in delivery of growth provided for in the Deposit LDP."

I cannot see what connection there is between the council's conclusion and the initial two sentences and I was particularly struck by the reference to 'a substantial evidence base' and that infrastructure is 'not considered to be a key constraining factor'.

One document within that 'evidence base' is the 'Highway Impact Assessment' September 2013. Pages 43 and 44 of a complex report sets out a summary of junction capacities and the strategic road junctions impacting on traffic from Barry make interesting reading: nine were judged to be already 'over capacity', and all 12 junctions 'over capacity' by 2026.

Thousands more houses – and the infrastructure is not a constraining factor?

Dennis Harkus

(FocusBARRY member)

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A TASTY SURPRISE FOR THE BARRY U3A!

THE Barry U3A held their AGM at Bethel Baptist Church on Monday, June 1, when following the financial report by the treasurer, leaders of the various interest groups gave updates on what has been happening during the year.

The social secretary reminded members of days out and holidays enjoyed during the last year and of plans for future outings.

Current members of the committee agreed to remain in office for a further year as the meeting voted unanimously that they were doing an excellent job.

Special thanks were given to Mr Lyndon Richards who works incredibly hard tracking down and booking interesting speakers for the monthly meetings.

Business having been concluded chairperson Valerie Lyndon announced that she had a surprise for those present – in the form of a strawberry and cream tea, which included some delicious scones made by a member of Bethel Baptist Church.

AGM meetings are usually thought of as boring affairs, but this was certainly not the case at Barry U3A!

Anyone interested in joining is welcome to come along to Bethel Baptist Church on the first Monday of the month at 2pm and give us a try... You can be sure of a welcome! **XC**

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How moving letters home brought World War vividly to life in Porthcawl

*by **Ceri Joseph** of Porthcawl Museum*

*'I am at Brudehaus, Paderborn, Westphalia, Germany.' (**Porthcawl News**, June 3, 1915.)*

ON reading these words, a great relief was felt by Mr and Mrs David Williams, Elmdene, New Road, Porthcawl; their son, Brynmor, had not been heard of since the Battle of Hill 60 south of Ypres, April 22, 1915.

Brynmor, who had emigrated to Canada in 1912, had joined the 10th Battalion, 'B' Company Canadian Infantry on September 24, 1914, aged 18. The unit proceeded to train at Salisbury Plain, landing in France, early 1915.

The Second Battle of Ypres, in 1915, was the first major action for the Canadian Division. It was, also, the first instance on the Western Front of the use of poison gas as a weapon of war.

In his letter home, Brynmor wrote that he had been wounded in the head and leg, was doing fine, but would his family send him cake and cigarettes. Such requests seem strange in hindsight, as many of us are aware of the atrocities that took place in POW Camps during World War Two.

However, it seems when reading Brynmor's letter and other similar letters, that many POW camps in World War One adhered to a more moral, gentlemanly approach.

Private Gwilym Loveluck, 1st Monmouthshire Regiment following his capture on May 8, 1915, wrote home from the Geissen Camp, Germany to his parents at 46 Mary Street, Porthcawl: 'I should like you to send me a couple of parcels every week, regularly. I think the best food you could send would be bread, cheese, dry biscuits, corned beef, cocoa, tea, sugar, butter, Welsh cakes and salt.' (*Porthcawl News June 3, 1915.*)

It reads like a shopping list, yet the volume of food parcels being sent to Germany caused the War Office to issue an appeal that: 'Bread sent to Germany should be very well baked. It should not be packed in tins, but carefully wrapped in greaseproof paper, then placed in a stout cardboard box.' (*Porthcawl News June 17, 1915.*) 'Bread in bad condition makes it uneatable before it reaches prisoners.'

An estimated 192,000 British and Commonwealth prisoners were taken during World War One. Overall, these prisoners were speedily repatriated between the end of December 1918 and the beginning of February 1919. Gwilym arrived in Porthcawl in December 1918, settled here, married in 1938, and died in 1970.

Brynmor arrived home in February 1919, returned to Canada where in 1921, he was joined by his mother and sisters following the death of his father. He later moved to California, became an American citizen in 1948 and died in 1964.

Another four Porthcawlians were discovered to be POWs during the war, whose stories will be told at a later date.

Brynmor wasn't the only Porthcawl man to return, following emigration. Norman Cave Younge returned from Australia at the outbreak of war and enlisted into the South Wales Borderers.

The Porthcawl News June 3, 1915 reported that at 18 years old, 2nd Lieutenant Norman Younge of 'Wellville' Newton, Porthcawl, had been one of the youngest to receive a commission in the regiment. On January 15, 1917 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps where, in April the same year, he was appointed as a Flight Officer to the 35th Squadron.

On April 23 over Arras where the 35th was providing air cover to the Cavalry Corps Norman incurred severe damage to his leg, resulting in its amputation and the fitting of a metal prosthetic limb.

On return to duty in February 1918 he was transferred to the Observer Corps, as a Flight Lieutenant. In July 1918, he took part in bombing missions over France in an Armstrong Whitworth FK8.

After being granted his 'demob' papers in April 1919 Lt Yonge moved to Kenya, probably on an ex-service man's re-settlement scheme and ran a coffee farm, where he died in the early 1950s.

In June 1915, Elsie Thomas of 'South View', Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl, on completion of her three-year training at the Great Northern Hospital, Holloway Road, London qualified as a staff nurse.

Before the month was out, she had applied to the War Office to serve in the Queen's Alexander Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve. As war casualties increased, so did the need for more qualified nurses.

Staff Nurse Elsie Thomas.

On the ward at the Ras-el-Tin military hospital, Alexandria.

To overcome the rule that QAIMNS nurses were to be unmarried, the War Office employed qualified nurses to the QAIMNS Reserve on short-term contracts, which could be renewed each year as the war progressed. After World War One these contracts were ended and the nurses returned to civilian nursing.

Elsie Thomas was accepted into the service on June 25, 1915 and was posted to Alexandria, Egypt on August 23, 1915.

Staff Nurse Thomas served at the Ras-el-Tin Military hospital for a year during which time she nursed many wounded but one soldier, 2nd Lieutenant Eric MacDougall, Highland Light Infantry became very special to her.

According to their granddaughter Maggie Macdougall, their time in Egypt together was one of great happiness, despite the horrors surrounding them, as it was there that they met and fell in love.

At the end of her year's contract, Elsie returned to England on *HMS Britannic* (*Titanic*'s sister ship) on October 12, 1916 possibly as a consequence of Eric being repatriated.

They married on July 8, 1918 in Essex and were to have two children. Elsie was brought to England on *HMS Britannic*'s fourth voyage between Britain and Mudros.

Upon its sixth voyage to the Mediterranean it hit a German mine on November 21, 1916. MP Shirley Williams' mother, Vera Brittain, was one of the survivors; as was Nurse Violet Jessop who had the uncanny notoriety of being the only person to travel on the *Titanic*, *Olympic*, and *Britannic* and survive!!

Elsie and future husband, Eric, at the military hospital.

On the home front, indication of an intensive recruitment drive could be witnessed in the prevalence of propaganda poems being printed in local newspapers; and here in Porthcawl, an over-enthusiastic recruitment sergeant-major King caused a riot in John Street.

Local civilians were unimpressed with his overbearing manner toward new recruits and openly expressed their anger, resulting in the officer drawing a revolver and a civilian being put under arrest.

It is only to be hoped that Canadian soldiers visiting from Ash Hall Auxiliary Hospital, Cowbridge, did not visit Porthcawl on the same day.

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BRIDGEND STUDENTS SHOW THEIR WORK AT GRADUATE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Images by **FRANK SHIPTON**
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THE graduation show for the photographic practice BA(Hons) course, run by Bridgend College, and accredited by Cardiff Metropolitan University, was recently opened at the Abacus Gallery in Cardiff.

Eight students graduated, three having studied part time over six years, and the other five full time (for three years).

All eight live in the Bridgend area: Ellis John, Maria Kucerkova, Michelle McKenna, Sandie Peters, Kirsty Stuart, Paul Green, Neil Llewellyn, and David Swidenbank.

The new Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Richard Young and Mayoress Annette Young, attended, along with some German friends Gislinde Nerlich and Wolfgang Werner who were visiting Bridgend.

Suzy Davies AM formally opened the exhibition.

• *The exhibition is no longer at the Abacus Gallery. The GEM understands that it is now on display at the Cardiff Metropolitan University campus.*

ABOVE: The eight graduate students at the Abacus Gallery. (Paul Green is back row, right).

Neil Llewellyn with some of his photographs.

Maria Kucerkova.

Michelle McKenna.

Sandie Peters.

ABOVE: Ellis John.

ABOVE: Kirsty Stuart alongside a photo.

Coun Richard Young and the Mayoress Annette Young with David Swidenbank

Course leader Shaun McDermott (right).

ABOVE: The Mayor with Michelle McKenna.

Suzy Davies AM opened the exhibition.

Estate agent sponsors 9th Mair's Walk for Velindre

LEFT: The Herbert R Thomas Mair's Walk team. From left: Robert Calcaterra, Layla Thomas, Michelle Thomas, Gavin Rees, and James Mordecai.

ESTATE Agent Herbert R Thomas (HRT) has announced it will be sponsoring the popular Mair's Walk on Sunday (June 7). The Vale company, which has an office in Bridgend town centre, has sponsored the t-shirts for the event, which starts at 11am.

Mair's Walk was set up by Mair ap Gruffydd, when she was given just a 50 per cent chance of living two years, after being diagnosed with lung cancer.

Now in its ninth year, the hugely popular event attracts over 1,000 walkers every year and has collectively raised over £188,000 for lung cancer research at Velindre Hospital.

This year, Olympic medallist Jamie Baulch will be leading the three-mile sponsored walk from Bridgend Recreation Centre to Ogmore Farm via Merthyr Mawr and the Stepping Stones.

Once the walk has been completed, there will be a refreshments marquee at Ogmore Farm where there will be a performance by Bridgend Male Voice Choir, as well as a funfair for children to enjoy. There will also be a prize for the best fancy dress, which is optional to all participants and a raffle.

James Mordecai, partner at HRT, said: "We are thrilled to support Mair's Walk once again. Mair is a truly inspirational woman who has been instrumental in raising a significant sum of money for lung cancer research at Velindre Hospital.

"Since opening our third office in Bridgend last year, we have been actively involved in the Bridgend community. We will have a team taking part in the challenge and we hope to see lots of people supporting the event and wearing the Mair's Walk t-shirts. We're sure it will be great day for everyone involved."

Mair ap Gruffydd, said: "I think everyone has been affected by cancer in some way, which is why so many people come together and show their support.

"It really is rewarding to see thousands of Bridgend residents taking part. Velindre Hospital makes a massive difference to those suffering from cancer and its research is instrumental in helping us find a cure for this cruel disease. We rely heavily on the support of local companies like HRT to help us run and organise the event. Due to the generosity of our sponsors, we can ensure all money goes to charity and not to running the event.

"There's going to be plenty of things to do after the walk for all the family, so we hope we will have a great turnout once again – fingers crossed the weather is on our side!"

Online registration is open but you can also register on the day for £10 from 9:30am at the bowls area at the Rec.

Early registration is recommended as a limited number of free Mair's Walk t-shirts will be available to participants.

Entry for children under 16 is free, but there will be a £5 fee for a t-shirt.

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CARERS WEEK 8th-14th June 2015

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CARERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY CARE FOR

Unsung heroes are recognised as...

THE NEST SCHEME MARKS CARERS' WEEK IN WALES

THE Welsh Government's Nest scheme is supporting Carers' Week at an event on Thursday, June, 11 at Cardiff City Stadium from 10am to 3pm.

Carers' Week, which runs from June 8 to 14, is an annual campaign that raises awareness of caring; highlights the challenges carers face; and recognises the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK.

The Staying Well event will provide free advice on healthy eating and staying active and highlight the support available to carers.

Set up by Cardiff and the Vale councils and the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, the event looks to highlight the role of family carers during the UK-wide Carers' Week.

The Nest team will be on hand to provide advice on saving energy and help to reduce the cost of energy bills.

In addition to advice, if you own or privately rent a home that is hard to heat and receive a means tested benefit, you may also be eligible for free home improvements from Nest.

These may include a replacement boiler, central heating system or insulation.

WIDE SUPPORT

Lee Parry, head of Nest, said: "Nest offers a wide range of support to help people who are struggling to heat their homes and worry about their energy bills.

"Over 17,000 householders have received free home improvements and saved an average of £475 a year on their energy costs."

Nest can be contacted on Freephone 0808 808 2244, or visit www.nestwales.org.uk for advice on reducing energy bills – to find out if you qualify for a package of home energy improvements.

Offering loving care in splendid surroundings

COLLEGE FIELDS Nursing Home in Barry is an impressive building with an elegant Edwardian facade, that has much in common with fine country houses.

The building, listed by the Secretary of State for Wales, as one of special historical and architectural interest, enjoys magnificent views over the Bristol Channel and Somerset coast.

Residents at College Fields Nursing Home enjoy their home comforts in a warm, spacious, delightful environment, with lots of companionship.

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Plan ahead with PASSMORES...

LAWYERS around Wales and England are running a national 'Make a Lasting Power of Attorney' campaign to encourage all people to plan ahead to avoid problems if they later lose mental capacity.

It means making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) on the new version of the forms, which came into force in October 2009.

A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

There are two types of LPA: financial and welfare. Financial LPAs enable a person to act on behalf of another if, for example, they are ill or disabled and cannot act for themselves.

A welfare LPA enables a person to act on behalf of another if that person does not have the mental capacity to act for themselves, for example, in the case of a severe stroke.

Without an LPA, it may be necessary for family members to apply to the Court of Protection for authority.

This can be a distressing and lengthy process, and is far more expensive than making an LPA.

Once all parties have signed the LPA, they must then be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before they can be used.

Carli Evans of Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly is actively encouraging all people to plan ahead and make Lasting Powers of Attorneys.

Anyonewishing to discuss their requirements should contact Carli Evans to arrange a suitable no obligation appointment on 01446 721000 or by email ce@passmores.com.

Nathan Williams of South Wales Stairlifts with another satisfied customer!

Bluebird Care supports Carers Week

BLUEBIRD CARE (Cardiff South and the Vale), one of the UK's leading providers of high quality homecare and support, is raising awareness of Carers' Week.

Bluebird Care provides over 20,000 care visits every day across the country and with many of our customers, there is a carer somewhere involved in the care and support we provide.

Director of Bluebird Care (Cardiff South and the Vale), Huw Owen, said: "Our customers want the highest quality care services for their loved ones, and often there are carers who can benefit from our support and we help them feel part of the care.

"We welcome feedback from our customers so we can help support any other carers involved in the care package.

"We also ensure our team are fully supported, as often they are caring for loved ones, too."

PASSMORES
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MAKE AN LPA NOW
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Can you imagine a situation where you or a member of your family is no longer able to make decisions? Frightening isn't it?
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Carli Evans, a member of Solicitors for the Elderly is inviting you to attend a no obligation appointment to find out more.
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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

carers week

CARERS WEEK 8th-14th June 2015

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CARERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY CARE FOR

carers week

Meet and greet at your local hospital

CARDIFF and Vale University Health Board is currently looking for volunteers to support the 'Meet and Greet' service at University Hospital of Wales Cardiff (UHW) and University Hospital Llandough (UHL).

A spokeswoman said: "Cardiff and Vale UHB welcomes volunteering applications from all walks of life, including people who have experience of a mental health condition.

"Our Meet and Greet volunteers provide a welcoming service to all patients, visitors, carers and health board staff across various hospital sites."

For more information, contact Michelle Fowler, voluntary services manager, on 02920 335467, or email Michelle.Fowler2@wales.nhs.uk

Case histories

OFFERING FRIENDLY CHAT...

MARTIN Brook from Barry is a befriending volunteer at University Hospital, Llandough, and spends his time befriending patients during their stay there.

Martin retired from full-time employment in August 2013, but still helps out with cost-planning for hospitals with his previous employer, Carillion. Martin undertook training and has been visiting inpatients at Llandough weekly, for over a year.

He said: "My aim is to have a friendly chat with people in hospital. Originally, I thought there may be patients who have no visitors, but this is rarely the case. Many patients I visit welcome a pleasant conversation.

"I am currently helping to conduct patient questionnaires on the ward. I was encouraged to volunteer because a few years ago, I spent a week in hospital when I was abroad and had no visitors.

"During this stay in hospital, I missed chatting to someone who had a bit more time to spare, and could also give me advice about getting everyday essentials like a toothbrush!

"Making a contribution to the workings of a hospital is important to me and, hopefully, appreciated by the patients I meet.

"I feel that the volunteers are both valued members of the Llandough hospital community and work together as part of a team – always with the patient's health and wellbeing at heart."

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

VERNON Thompson from Barry has been volunteering for the mental health service since May 2010.

Vernon was recently honoured at the Staff Recognition Awards as Volunteer of the Year 2015.

When his beloved wife Avril became ill with dementia, he became her sole carer for many years and refused all offers of help, until eventually she was admitted to St Baruc's ward at Barry Hospital.

Vernon continued to visit her every day and became well known to all the staff and patients.

Sadly, when Avril passed away, there was a huge void in Vernon's life. Encouraged by the ward manager, Vernon decided to become a volunteer.

He now volunteers on most days of the week at two wards – St Baruc's in Barry Hospital and East 14 at University Hospital, Llandough.

He provides valuable support for patients and their carers suffering with varying degrees of dementia.

Vernon talks and listens to patients and their carers and joins in group work, plays dominoes or card games, takes patients into the gardens and makes tea for them.

Patients look forward to his visits. He takes time to chat with carers, as he knows through his own experience about the effect this illness has on families, and is there as support and a friendly face. Jill Griffiths, voluntary services co-ordinator (mental health) said: "It has been a privilege and an honour to have this caring, compassionate man as a volunteer within mental health services.

"He really deserves the title 'Volunteer of the Year 2015'. Congratulations and thank you, Vernon, from all the staff and patients of Cardiff and Vale mental health services, who have benefited from your remarkable commitment and support."

LEARNING MORE ABOUT HEALTH CARE

SCOTT Richards wanted to study adult nursing and needed to gain experience in a healthcare setting, so he decided to enquire about volunteering.

Scott said: "From reading an article in my local newspaper about volunteering for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, I got in touch with Michelle Fowler. From my first contact with Michelle and the team, throughout my time as a volunteer, from induction, through training and then manning the information centre, the support, encouragement and guidance I have received has been outstanding.

"After a period of training and 'buddying' with an experienced member, I was confident enough to run the information and support centre at University Hospital Llandough on my own.

"As a direct result of volunteering, I got into my first-choice university in Cardiff and straight onto the nurse bank as a healthcare support worker. Without the support from Michelle and the team, I would not have achieved this.

"I would thoroughly recommend volunteering to anyone looking to work in healthcare or to anyone who wants to make a difference in their local community."

Scott Richards.

Vernon Thompson.

Martin Brook.

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Our staff have been winners or finalists of Care Forum Wales Awards nearly every year since its inception in 2000

Events highlight care for the carers...

THE 2011 Census tells us there are 15,575 unpaid carers in the Vale caring for an ill, frail or disabled family member or friend.

These people are 'carers' but they would probably say: "I'm just being a husband, a wife, a mum, a dad, a son, a daughter, a friend, or a good neighbour."

Carers provide unpaid help on a regular basis. People might need help for many reasons. For example, they may be born with a disability or had an accident that left them disabled; they may have an illness or disease.

Their problems may be physical or mental. They might need help because they are getting older and frail.

If this sounds like your situation, then you may be interested to hear about local events taking place next week.

Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, are working together to organise a series of events during Carers' Week, to give carers access to information and support (see advert).

Each event is open to residents from Cardiff and the Vale and will be an opportunity speak to a range of organisations that support carers, find out information that can make a great difference in your situation, as well meet other carers over a cuppa.

Additionally, on both days, three, separate hour-long advice sessions will be run which will provide practical information on these areas on Tuesday, June 9: mass marketing scams and doorstep crime, first aid, looking after yourself (taster); and on Thursday, June 11: healthy eating, benefits, bite size stress control.

We look forward to welcoming you!

For more information, telephone 01446 704604 or email carersservices@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

You are invited to our FREE events for family carers at:

Cardiff City Stadium, Leckwith, Cardiff CF11 8AZ

on Tuesday 9 June and Thursday 11 June from 10am - 3pm

find information, see demonstrations, get advice and meet other carers. The theme on Tuesday is 'Staying Safe' and on Thursday is 'Staying Well', as well as lots of more general information on support for carers.

Chat with other carers over a cuppa!

Unable to attend our daytime events?
Then visit our Carers' Advice Shop (4pm - 6pm on Tuesday 9 June only)

Fe'ch gwahoddir i'n digwyddiadau AM DDIM ar gyfer gofalwyr teuluol yn:

Stadiwm Dinas Caerdydd, Lecwydd, Caerdydd CF11 8AZ

ar ddydd Mawrth 9 Mehefin a dydd Iau 11 Mehefin rhwng 10am a 3pm

Cewch godi gwybodaeth, gwylio arddangosiadau, gofyn am gyngor a chwrdd â gofalwyr eraill. 'Cadw'n Ddiogel' yw thema dydd Mawrth a 'Chadw'n Iach' fydd dan sylw ddydd Iau, a bydd llawer o wybodaeth gyffredinol hefyd i'ch helpu fel gofalwr.

Dewch i gael clonc dros baned!

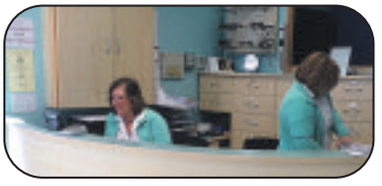
Methu â dod yn ystod y dydd? Os felly, beth am alw heibio i'n Siop Cyngor Gofalwyr? (4pm - 6pm ar ddydd Mawrth 9 Mehefin yn unig)

International Glaucoma Association iga

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

NATIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS WEEK

June 8th - 14th 2015



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BE SAFE, NOT SORRY, WITH ROBERT LLOYD

NATIONAL Glaucoma Awareness week begins on June 8.

Glaucoma is often referred to as 'the silent thief of sight' due to the significant amount of sight that is lost without any symptoms.

It's a progressive disease and early detection is vital in preventing debilitating sight loss. This is why regular thorough eye examinations are vital for all, but especially those at increased risk due to family history of the disease.

At Robert Lloyd Optometrists, in addition to routine examinations, we also offer state-of-the-art imaging techniques that are able to detect the earliest signs of glaucoma which are not always apparent in a standard eye examination.

For more advice, or information, please call into the practice.

KEEP THE FUTURE IN SIGHT
THE BEST PROTECTION IS EARLY PROTECTION

GLAUCOMA
IS ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF
BLINDNESS

THE HEIDELBERG RETINAL TOMOGRAH (HRT)
allows reliable detection of disease, years before any noticeable symptoms appear.
Get an early start, as check ups with the HRT may help to prevent loss of vision.

Retinal tomography now available at..

Robert E Lloyd
49 High Street, COWBRIDGE
☎ 01446 773191

Early diagnosis key
say Jones & Jones

CHRONIC glaucoma affects two per cent of the population over the age of 40, increasing to over 10 per cent for those aged 75 or more.

There are about 500,000 people in Wales and England with glaucoma, and about 70 million worldwide, making it one of the leading causes of blindness.

Unfortunately, there are no symptoms until extensive irreversible damage to the optic nerve has occurred, resulting in unrecoverable vision loss, and it is estimated that up to 50 per cent of people with glaucoma are undiagnosed.

Frustratingly, needless blindness from glaucoma can be easily averted as it can often be treated with simple eye drops. The key to successful treatment is early diagnosis. To increase your chance of being diagnosed early, you should have a sight test at least every two years – or more frequently if you have a first degree relative with glaucoma.

There are three basic tests used to screen for glaucoma, and for some patients it may be available on the NHS; for others, there will be a charge.

Even then, a basic sight test can often only detect glaucoma when substantial nerve damage has already occurred.

Fortunately, at Jones & Jones Optometrists, Dr Adrian Jones has a special interest in glaucoma and holds the College of Optometrists Higher Diploma in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma.

After spending almost a decade in specialist clinics at University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff, and the Bristol Eye Hospital, he has a wealth of knowledge and clinical expertise.

Dr Jones is able to offer NICE-compliant glaucoma assessments and comprehensive ongoing aftercare.

If you are concerned about the possibility of glaucoma, please telephone 01446 400015 to book an appointment, or visit our website at www.jonesandjones.org.uk.

annette dobbs
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Coun Hailey Townsend is encouraging local people to make a connection with fostering.

COUNCIL SEEKS FOSTER CARERS

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) is calling for local people to come forward and make a 'connection with fostering' during Foster Care Fortnight (June 1-14).

In Bridgend county borough, approximately 70 foster families need to be found over the next year. If new foster families can't be found, many children will be forced to live a long way from family, friends and school, with some entering residential care.

There is a particular need locally for foster carers to look after teenagers, disabled children and sibling groups.

Coun Hailey Townsend, BCBC's cabinet member for children's social services and equalities, said: "A childhood is too short to waste, and foster carers can help those who haven't had the best start to begin enjoying their life.

"We need more people to provide loving and safe homes for vulnerable children and young people so that they can live closer to their family and friends, and find the stability and security they need to go on and achieve their potential and grow into adults.

"If you're not sure whether you can foster or you have an interest in making a difference to a child's life, I would encourage you to contact the fostering team – they will give you all the information you need. We are also keen to dispel the myths that still exist around fostering and remind people that older residents aged 55 and over, gay people and single men can all foster.

"The most important thing is that prospective foster carers need to have the time and energy to invest in a child or young person.

They must also be flexible, patient and understanding. Carers receive a weekly allowance and have the support of BCBC's professional team 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

The council's fostering team has a number of activities planned throughout Foster Care Fortnight including visits to Sainsbury's, Bridgend today, Thursday, June 4, 10am–12pm and Friday, June 5, 1pm-4pm. The team will be happy to have an informal chat and answer any questions.

You can find out more about this year's Foster Care Fortnight campaign, by visiting ***www.makeaconnection.wales*** *and obtain further information about becoming a foster carer, by telephoning* ***01656 642674****; or you can visit* ***www.bridgend.gov.uk/fostering.***

Lifeboat shop open

THE Lifeboat souvenir shop next to the Lifeboat Station on the Esplanade, Penarth, is open from 2pm to 5pm daily. For further details, call 02920 711659.

Your chance to share the community news

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Soloist J Rhys Davies leads the choir.

Two choirs

I HAD the pleasure of attending the recent concert by Bois Goetre-Hen (Boys of Coytrahen) Male Choir at St John's church, Aberkenfig, along with Stithians Ladies' Choir, formed in 1966 at Penmennor Methodist church, in Cornwall.

It has an accomplished musical team in musical director Bea Geddes and accompanist Nigel Guzek.

The ladies' choir began the concert with three hymns and the male choir then took the stage under its musical director Dale Evans, accompanied by Bethan Edwards.

'Ride the Chariot' included two solo pieces by Morgan Williams and J Rhys Davies.

Tenor J Rhys Davies sang 'This is the moment' from the musical *Jekyll and Hyde* and the ladies' choir then sang three songs from the musicals *Oliver*, *Les Misérables* and Irving Berlin's *Alexander's Ragtime Band*.

The male choir completed the first half of the concert with Bob Dylan's 'Make You Feel My Love,' and a solo piece by Bob Price, finishing with 'Gwahoddiad'.

They started the second half followed by a polished performance by the ladies choir of a musical written for children dealing with environmental issues.

Tenor J Rhys Davies returned to sing a solo from the musical *Chess*, and the concert concluded with the Welsh National Anthem, the ladies of Cornwall leading the way!

The men's choir rehearses at Tondu cricket club, Bryn Road, Tondu on Sundays from 6pm to 8pm and Tuesdays 7pm to 9pm; new members welcome.

Bryncethin WI

ON May 21, president Debi Thomas of Bryncethin WI welcomed everyone and secretary Jen Davies read the minutes.

Members celebrating birthdays, Carol Finch and Teresa Ree, both received birthday cards.

Teresa Ree spoke briefly to ask if members would donate handknitted jumpers in aid of the 'fish and chip babies', born to parents with AIDS. Elaine Christian renewed her request to members for more recipes for the Bryncethin WI recipe book project.

Debi Thomas thanked members for attending a meeting prior to the craft tabletop open evening which was a great success – £245.63 was raised in total for Bryncethin WI.

The branch will be holding a summer community fete on Saturday, July 18 at Bryncethin Memorial Hall. If you wish to have a table at this event email Bryncethin.wi@gmail.com. Further updates can be found via their website: bryncethinwi.webs.com/ or contact Jen: 07938 746890.

Bryncethin WI will meet on Thursday, June 18 from 6:45pm – 9pm, at Bryncethin Memorial Hall, on the A4061 opposite the primary school. During the next meeting, it will be celebrating its first birthday, and new members will be welcome.

Pupils' awards

TYNYRHEOL Primary School, Llangeinor's value certificates winners for 'tolerance' were:

Class 1 – Gwen Standing, for being tolerant and waiting for her turn.

Class 2 – Tom Hopwood, for being tolerant of others with a mature attitude.

Class 3 – Gethyn Thomas, for displaying tolerance for decisions regarding basketball selection.

The following pupils have been chosen to represent the school at swimming galas in the Bridgend area:

Darcey Bater, Zoe Baird, Logan Cinderby, McKenzie Dowling, Lloyd Grabham, Harry Hopwood, Gethin Lewis, Jak Lewis, Millie Loosmore, Jamie McCann, Madison Parry, Paige Penny, Noah Pook, Roman Pook, Dylan Sage, Thomas Sage, Ellie Street, Gethyn Thomas, Eloise Whitefield and Tyler Williams.

Ladies' choir

CÔR Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley ladies choir) is holding a fundraising coffee morning this Saturday (June 6) at the Old House, Llangynwyd from 10am to 12 noon; entry will be £3.

The choir rehearses at Garth 'Celtic' rugby club on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm; visitors and new members welcome.

Bridgend male choir

THE choir will be performing next Sunday, June 7 in the marquee at Ogmore village at 1pm, to celebrate the conclusion of 'Mair's Walk', held to raise funds for cancer research at Velindre hospital.

On June 12 the choir will be leading the hymn singing at All Saints' church, Pen-y-Fai for the wedding of the granddaughter of one of its choristers, Brian Evans.

Wedding date

ON Saturday, June 6 the Ogmore Valley male voice choir is leading the singing at the wedding of Enid Tylke in St David's church, Wyndham.

It is then performing in a concert at its rehearsal hall, Canolfan Bethlehem, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale on Saturday, June 13 at 7pm with the Churchdown male voice choir from Gloucestershire. Tickets are £4, obtainable from choristers, or John on 01656 841429.

Hospital fete

FRIENDS of Maesteg Hospital will be holding its 53rd annual fete to raise funds for the hospital in Maesteg Market Square on Saturday, June 20 from 10am to 4.30pm.

This year it will be bigger and better than ever with lots of interesting stalls and attractions including a circus troupe, rodeo bull, football shootout, coconut shy, crafts, games and competitions.

Young singers and dancers will be on the stage all day to entertain the public.

Friends' concern

THE Friends of Bridgend Youth Music charity is concerned that the young musicians may lose funding for instrumental music tuition in schools throughout Wales.

This is a genuine concern and education for arts and music is just as essential as the three Rs. It was music that helped keep the public's hope alive during the Second World War, and music has opened so many promising careers for youngsters over the last few years.

Foodbank

I AM sorry to have to write that another of these essential services has had to open in the Bridgend CBC area, this time in Ogmore Vale at Horeb Baptist Chapel, Dinam Close, Nantymoel on Thursdays from 11am to 1pm.

Festival week

THERE will be a concert at St Theodore's church, Kenfig Hill featuring Frank Hennessy at the church on Tuesday, June 16 at 7pm, part of Kenfig Hill and Pyle community festival week activities.

Tickets £8 available from Theo's charity shop, Bridge Street, members of the festival committee, or on 01656 742703.

Tabletop

AT St David's church, Wyndham today (and tomorrow, June 5) there is a tabletop sale at the church from 10am to 4pm. Hot drinks and refreshments will be available all day.

Charity shop

ABERKENFIG and District United Churches have combined to open a charity – the Storehouse in Aberkenfig, Monday to Thursday from 10am to 4pm; Saturdays 10am to 1pm.

The shop accepts donated items from the public for sale to raise funds for a 'Christians against Poverty' debt centre.

Nigel Guzek and Bea Geddes.

Bethan Edwards and Dale Evans.

Llancarfan horse continues its good form

A week after winning a handicap chase at Ffos Las, versatile Patricktom Boru, owned by Roger Willcox and Bill Corrigan and trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, landed the opening White Swan Hotel Novices' Handicap Hurdle at Stratford last Saturday evening.

Partnered by Adam Wedge Patricktom Boru, an eight-year-old former successful point-to-pointer, came home two lengths clear of Stay In My Heart and went off the 9-4 favourite.

BRADLEY COMES IN FOR PRAISE

Bradley Gibbs, who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, came in for a lot of praise in the Racing Post last week when finishing second on the trainer's Deshan at Worcester.

Deshan veered violently right in the latter stages of the race almost getting rid of his rider. However, Bradley, in pure rodeo style, somehow kept the partnership intact and getting his mount going again failed by just a length and a quarter to nail the winner Blackdown Hills.

Bradley, who earlier this season scored a hat-trick at the Llangeinor Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases, modestly said: "Deshan ran a bit green".

COMMON THEME

Question - *What do Brown Jack, Persian War and Mill House have in common?*

Answer: *The three of them are featured in Robin Oakley's Top 100 Racehorses Of All Time.*

Another thing they have in common is that they were all trained by Welshmen. Brown Jack was trained by Ivor Anthony, Persian War by Colin Davies and Mill House by Fulke Walwyn.

My favourite horse of all time is Brown Jack, who won the 1928 Champion Hurdle and who also won the Queen Alexandra Stakes at Royal Ascot six years in succession.

He also won the Ascot Stakes so was a winner at the Royal meeting for seven years in a row.

Other big races that went his way were the Ebor Handicap, Goodwood Cup and Chester Cup. Brown Jack also won a hurdle race at Cardiff's Ely Racecourse which closed in 1939.

When I worked at the old racecourse as an assistant to the groundsman, as a young lad in the early 1950s, the only reminder that it had once been a racecourse was the old grandstand which was demolished in the 1960s.

Incidentally, I can claim to have won a race at Ely Racecourse – I won my heat of the 100 yards at the Cardiff School Sports!

Report by BRIAN LEE

Vale MP's double sports date at Dinas Powys!

Alun Cairns MP with winner Craig Maycock and bowling club officials.

VALE MP Alun Cairns joined bowling and football club volunteers in Dinas Powys last week.

He attended the finals of the Men's Open Singles Championship of Wales, held for the 97th year, at Dinas Powys Bowling Club on the Common. Later, he attended the annual Dinas Powys Football Club dinner as a guest.

Craig Maycock from Merthyr won the bowling final, and Mr Cairns paid tribute to the finalists and the volunteers who put on such a professional event.

He said: "I was delighted to have been able to watch such a prestigious final. I must pay tribute to the club officials who organised such an impressive event. The playing surface and organisation was immaculate. I also very much enjoyed attending the football club dinner – a great deal of money was raised, which will help sustain the club through next season."

MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

Cyrsiau Teulu Newydd

MAE Menter Bro Morgannwg yn datblygu rhaglen newydd sbon o weithgareddau i blant oed meithrin a'u teuluoedd ym Mro Morgannwg, mewn partneriaeth ag Adran Chwaraeon yr Urdd.

Cynhaliwyd sesiwn Miri Meithrin llwyddiannus yn ystod hanner tymor Sulgwyn, gyda babanod a'u teuluoedd wedi dod i fwynhau perfformiad gan Heini, gweithgareddau celf a chrefft a chastell wynt.

Y cwrs wythnosol cyntaf fydd yn cael ei gynnal fydd SBLISH SBLASH BABIS DŴR – gwersi nofio i fabanod rhwng 0-3 mlwydd oed – sy'n dechrau ar y 9fed o Fehefin. Bydd y gwersi'n cael eu cynnal bob dydd Mawrth, 9.30-10am, yng Nghanolfan Hamdden Penarth (£36 am gwrs 6 wythnos). Mae modd cofrestru am Sblish Sblash ar wefan y Fenter – www.menterbromorgannwg.cymru

Bydd mwy o sesiynau wythnosol yn dechrau ym mis Medi fydd wedi eu gwasgaru ar draws y Sir – gan gynnwys Sesiynau Amser Stori, rygbi a gymnasteg, felly gwyliwch allan am fwy o fanylion maes o law!

ANGHARAD

DOES dim rhaid i ni gael Simon Cowell i wneud i ni gyd ymfalchio yn ein Cymreictod a'n hiaith ond mae popeth yn help!

Llongyfarchiadau anferthol i gôr Glanaethwy (a chwarae teg hefyd i Ant a Dec am wneud ymdrech go iawn ohoni gyda'r ynganu) fel Jodi Bird llynedd am ddod a Chymru a'r iaith i sylw miliynnau o wylwyr selog *Britain's Got Talent*.

Mae'n hen clichē erbyn hyn wrth gwrs ond fel pob clichē dda mae'n seiliedig ar wirionedd – mae Wales Got Talent ar ei fwyaf amlwg yn ystod wythnos Eisteddfod yr Urdd a llongyfarchiadau mawr unwaith eto i Ysgol Iolo Morganwg y Bontfaen am ennill gyda'r parti deulais. Roedden nhw'n wych.

Ac wrth i fi ysgrifennu'r pwt yma mae gwisg ysgol fy nwy ferch i yn hongian yn dwt wedi ei smwddio'n daclus yn barod ar gyfer cystadlu dydd Iau a Gwener yn heulwen Caerffili.

Un o rinweddau mwyaf yr Eisteddfod yw bod cymaint o gyfleodd i bawb. Does dim rhaid eich bod â dawn i serennu yn unigol, mae lle yn y parti dawnsio gwerin neu'r cyflwyniad dramatig, y parti llefaru neu'r ymgom.

Mae pob un o'r cystadlaethau yma yn cynnig profiadau gwbl amhrisiadwy i bobl ifanc i berfformio a magu hyder a dysgu sgiliau oes na ellir eu dysgu mewn dosbarthiadau addysgol.

Dyma heb os yw un o'r dadleuon mwyaf pwerus i rieni petrusgar sydd ddim yn siarad Cymraeg i ddewis addysg Gymraeg i'w plant. A thrwy gyfleon yr Urdd mae'r ymroddiad – a'r dewrder yma – i roi'r dechrau gorau posib mewn bywyd iddynt yn talu ar eu ganfed dybiwn i.

A phan fydd rhieni petrusgar yn gofyn am farn wrth ystyried addysg Gymraeg ateb arall sy'n hawdd ei roi yw bod gwaith ysgol mewn sawl pwnc yn gobl-di-gwc llwyr beth bynnag yr iaith. Bysen i ddim callach o ddeall 'dargludiad a'r darfudiad sy'n dibynnu ar ymddygiad gronnynau, a'r pelydriad sy'n dibynnu ar donnau' yn Saesneg chwaith!

A son am belydriadau a dargludiadau – un pwt pwysig i gloi i ddymuno pob lwc i bawb sydd yng nghanol adolygiadau arholiad ar hyn o bryd. A chydymdeimlo a dymuno llwyddiant i bob cyd-riant disgyblion TGAU arall hefyd!

LLAIS LLEOL: SIAN FOX

PA ardal o'r Fro ydych chi'n byw?

Rwy'n byw yn Penarth.

Beth yw'r peth gorau am fyw yn y Fro?

Bod mor agos i popeth – traethau gwych, Caerdydd, ysgolion da a Foxys wrth gwrs!

Dwedwch ychydig wrthom am eich busnes, Foxys Deli.

Ni wedi bod yn rhedeg Foxys am 14 mlynedd. Mae wedi tyfu o siop fach i deli gyda 45 sedd yn y cafe. Foxys yw "hwb" y gymuned, mae llawer o glybiau yn cwrdd yma – gwersi Cymraeg!

Ma Foxys yn paratoi bwyd amser cinio i'r ysgolion lleol. Rydym yn awyddus i werthu nwyddau Cymraeg a lleol os gallwn. Ni yn llyfr Rick Steins food heroes!

Rhowch 5 gair i ddisgrifio Penarth.

Haenog, Boncyrs, Cymdeithasol, Siaradus.

Beth ydy eich diddordebau?

Cymdeithasu gyda gwin!

Beth yw eich uchelgais am y ddeng mlynedd nesa?

Ennill gwobr "Busneswraig Bro Morgannwg."

Gyda pwy fasech chi'n hoffi cael pryd o fwyd?

Obama.

Ydych chi'n meddwl bod statws a phroffil y Gymraeg wedi cynyddu yn y Fro dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf? Ydych chi'n clywed llawer o'r Gymraeg yn eich swydd o ddydd i ddydd?

Ydw yn fawr – mae'r ysgolion Gymraeg yn tyfu a dwi yn clywed mwy o bobl yn ssiard yr iaith yn Foxys.

Pwy ydych chi'n eu hedmygu?

Fy mam Beti Jones.

Beth yw eich gwyliau delfrydol?

Teithio trwy USA mewn campervan.

Lle yw eich hoff dafarn neu fwyty yn y Fro?

Mae'r Glendale yn Penarth yn lle arbennig iawn.

Calendr

Menter Bro Morgannwg

4/06/15: Bore Coffi i Ddysgwyr – yn cwrdd ar ddydd Iau cyntaf pob mis, croeso i bawb! 10am – 11am, Foxys Deli, Penarth.

9/06/15: Cwrs Sblish Sblash yn dechrau – cofrestrwch ar wefan y Fenter. 9.30am – 10am, Canolfan Hamdden Penarth.

24/06/15: Gigs Bach y Fro – noson o gerddoriaeth a cherddi yng nghwmni Steve Eaves a Bragdy'r Beirdd. Tocynnau ar gael drwy gysylltu â ffion@menterbromorgannwg.org/029 20689888; 8pm, Duke of Wellington, Y Bontfaen.

Mudiad Meithrin

15/06/15-17/06/15: Gŵyl Dewin a Doti – bydd sioeau i gylchoedd y Fro am 11.30am ar y 15fed. Amgueddfa Werin Cymru Sain Ffagan.

Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro

29/06/15: Cynhadledd i Diwtoriaid Cymraeg eu hiaith mewn colegau addysg bellach. Cyfle i gydweithio i greu adnoddau a helpu'n gilydd i gynyddu'r nifer o gyrsiau cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sector. 9.30am – 4pm, Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro, Safle Colcot, Y Barri.

Canolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion

9/06/15: Cymraeg dros baned – Dewch i fwynhau paned a chacen AM DDIM ac i fwynhau Sam Tân, Gemau Iaith, sesiwn gwneud mygydau, gwybodaeth am ddosbarthiadau Cymraeg i Oedolion a llawer mwy! 10am – 2pm, Coleg Cymunedol y Bontfaen.

13/06/15: Cwrs Sadwrn – Dewch i fwynhau Cwrs Sadwrn llawn hwyl. Croeso i ddysgwyr o bob lefel! 10am–4pm, Prifysgol Caerdydd.

20/06/15: Dewch i'n gweld ar stondin Cymraeg i Oedolion yn y digwyddiad 'Barri yn y Rhyfel', ar Ynys y Barri, i weld sut dych chi'n gallu gwella'ch Cymraeg. Am fwy o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â willisg1@cf.ac.uk/wiseg@cf.ac.uk / 029 20874710.

Addysg Oedolion Cyfrwng Cymraeg Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

Bob nos Lun: 5 – 6.45pm Gweithdy Digidol, 7pm–8.30pm Canu yn Gymraeg gyda Roxanne Western. Canolfan Palmerston.

08/06/15: Noson Monopoly yn Gymraeg, 6.30pm–8.30pm, Canolfan Palmerston.

15/06/15: Noson Scrabble, 6.30pm–8.30pm, Canolfan Palmerston.

20/06/15: Gwersi blasu pynciau addysg oedolion trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg – gwersi am ddim yn cynnwys Gitâr i Ddechreuwyr, Gitâr mwy profiadol, Celf, Crefftau, Gwnio, Ieithoedd, Drama ac adrodd straeon. Gweithgareddau i'r plant hefyd, dewch â'r teulu i ddysgu gyda'i gilydd, 10am – 5pm, Canolfan Palmerston.

22/06/15: Cwis Cymraeg, 6.30pm–8.30pm, Canolfan Palmerston.

29/06/15: Gweithdy gwaith llaw – gwau, crochet gwnio – dewch â'ch cywaith neu dechreuwch gampwaith newydd, 6.30pm–8.30pm, Canolfan Palmerston.

Bob dydd Gwener tan ddiwedd Mehefin: Amser Stori y Bontfaen, 9.30am–10.30am, Canolfan Coleg Cymunedol yr Hen Neuadd.

Bob dydd Llun yn ystod tymor yr ysgol: Amser Stori Penarth, 2pm–3pm, Llyfrgell Penarth; mnfurnham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Trip 'Cymraeg i Oedolion' i Neuadd Gregynog

CAFODD criw Cymraeg i Oedolion amser o fri yn Neuadd Gregynog yn y Drenewydd.

Roedd yn siwrna pell a throellog i fyny'r A470! Roedd yr hen neuadd oedd wedi'i amgylchynnu â gerddi blodeuog wedi'i addurno â symbolaeth o'r cyfnodau cynharaf Tywysogion Cymru ac arwyddocâd diwylliannol.

Roedd addurniadau'r neuadd wedi dyddio nôl o'r 1920au i'r 60au ble roedd chwaeth ragorol ei pherchnogion y Chwiorydd Davies yn amlwg. Yn yr adeilad roedd Renoirs, Monet a Picasso unwaith yn hongian a roedd Rodin dal i sefyll yno heddiw.

Ond, roedd un peth yn ofni un o'n tiwtoriaid, y ffaith fod ysbryd yn cerdded o'i chwmpas yng nghanol y nos. Na, ni chysgodd Ana Simms o gwbl drwy'r penwythnos hahaha!

Dechreuodd y gwersi y munud y cyrhaeddom ni ar y nos Wener! Roedd amrywiaeth eang o ran gallu o ddechreuwyr pur i hyfedredd. Roedd y bwyd yn wych yn y neuadd gyda rhywbeth ar gael at ddant pawb. Yna, cawsom noson o ganu gyda'r ffefrynnau 'Oes Gafr eto', 'Calon Lan', 'Moliannwn' a 'Daw Hyfryd Fis' yn cael ei bloeddio yn nhafarn y gwesty.

Dysgwyr Caerdydd a'r Fro yn mwynhau yng Ngregynog.

Yr ail ddiwrnod roedd helfa drysor a cwis ble cafodd y dysgwyr eu rhannu i bedwar grŵp sef Arthur, Gwenllian, Llywelyn a Glyndwr. Roedd yr helfa drysor yn arbennig ble roedd rhaid cerdded drwy'r gerddi gogoneddus.

Cawsom gwis adnabod enwogion Cymru a rownd cyfieithu pop ble roedd chwerthin enfawr dros "dwi'n rhy rhywiol i fy nghrys, rhy rhywiol mae'n brifo" a "dwi mor oer, gad fi fewn drwy dy ffenest, ti'n gwybod mae'n fi, Cathy!" Ceisiwch chi ddyfalu beth yw'r caneuon pop! Yna, cawsom twmpath dan arweiniad Suzanne Condon. Roedd digon o chwerthin a mwynhau sy'n hollbwysig ar gyfer dysgu Cymraeg. Cawsom ambell i gemau iaith o amgylch yr adeilad oedd yn anhygoel!

Er mwyn i'r Gymraeg ffynnu mae'n hollbwysig defnyddio'r iaith mewn sefyllfa anffurfiol tu allan i'r dosbarth. Ond, yn anffodus roedd rhaid i ni ffarwelio ar y diwrnod olaf! Roeddwn yn drist iawn i'w gadael ar ôl gweld cymaint o gynnydd oedd wedi bod yn eu gallu o'r Gymraeg.

Tan tro nesaf!

Glyn

Fferm Organig Slade – Diwrnod agored

OS ydych yn chi'n chwilfrydig ac eisiau dysgu am beth yn union yw fferm organig a diddanu'r plant ar yr un pryd yna mae fferm Slade yn Sant y Brid ger Penybont yn cynnal diwrnod agored ar Fehefin 7fed.

Mi fydd tywysydd o'r enw Tudur yn cynnal teithiau tywys yn Gymraeg am 11.15, 12.30, 1.30 a 2.30pm. Mae'r gweithgareddau yn rhad ac am ddim ac yn cynnwys rasus percyll, gwau helyg, mynd i weld yr anifeiliad a sgyrsiau am y fferm. Bydd lluniaeth ysgafn ar gael a reid ar y tractor am 50 ceiniog.

Mae'r fferm yn cynhyrchu cigoedd organig i'w prynu ac mae Polly Davies sy' berchen y fferm yn dweud bod bocsys o gig yn gallu cael eu dosbarthu o fewn y Fro am ddim. Am fwy o wybodaeth ewch i www.sladefarmorganics.com

MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg

Trywydd

YN ystod y flwyddyn hon mae Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg wedi bod yn ddigon ffodus i gael ein dewis i fod yn rhan o'r prosiect PCAI (Prosiect Cefnogi Arferion Iaith) sy'n cael ei ariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru.

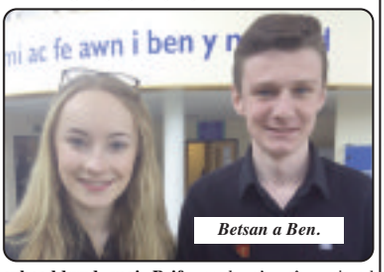
Pwrpas y prosiect ydy hybu'r iaith Gymraeg yn yr ysgol ac yn y gymuned leol a derbyniwyd arian gan y Llywodraeth er mwyn cyflawni hyn.

Penderfynon ni gyflawni hyn trwy gynnal tair gig trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ar gyfer chweched yr ysgol. Perfformiodd bandiau ac unigolion ifanc megis Cadno, Hanna Beynon, Jodi Bird a Hana Evans. Cynhaliwyd dwy gig yn y Windsor Arms ym Mhenarth ac yna un yng Nghlwb Ifor Bach gyda Phlasmawr a Glantaf.

Does dim amheuaeth roedd y profiad yn fuddiol iawn i nifer o ddisgyblion yn yr ysgol a denwyd torfeydd o bobl gan yr holl dalent sydd wedi crisiali ym Mro Morgannwg. Hoffwn ddiolch i PCAI am y cyfle arbennig hwn a gobeithiwn y bydd yr holl waith caled yn parhau'r flwyddyn nesaf.

Gan Betsan Jones a Rhiannon Berry

Gig Trywydd yn y Windsor Arms



Betsan a Ben.

Prif Swyddogion

WEDI wythnos o ganfasio a chystadleuaeth frwd cyhoeddwyd mai Prif Swyddogion cyntaf ysgol 3-19 newydd Bro Morgannwg ar gyfer y flwyddyn academaidd 2015/16 fydd Betsan Jones a Ben Popham, a'u dirprwyon fydd Keelan Jones a Rhiannon Berry.

Mewn cyfweliad â James Evans, pennaeth y chweched, dywedodd Ben a Betsan eu bod yn falch o gael eu hethol ac maent yn edrych ymlaen at weithio gyda'r ysgol. Soniodd y ddau eu bod wedi cael profiadau ardderchog yn eu blynyddoedd cynnar yn yr ysgol ac yn parhau i fwynhau y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael iddynt, ymysg eraill mae'r ddau yn aelodau o gerddorfa'r ysgol a'r tîm siarad cyhoeddus.

Dros y flwyddyn diwethaf mae'r chweched dosbarth wedi bod yn codi arian at elusen Teenage Cancer Trust gyda digwyddiadau llai ac hefyd i'r holl ysgol, cytunodd Ben a Betsan ei fod yn bwysig i hyn barhau gan ei fod yn elusen mor deilwng.

Er nad yw'r chweched dosbarth ym Mro Morgannwg y mwyaf, mae gan hyn fanteision lu gan bod pawb yn nabod ei gilydd ac yn teimlo yn rhan o gymuned. Mae'r ddau yn gobeithio cael gyrfa ym maes Meddygaeth a dymunwn y gorau iddynt yn eu swydd eleni ac ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Saffaris bwyd

YN nhy bwyta Arboreal yn y Bontfaen fe lansiwyd menter newydd lle roedd cynnyrch lleol ar gael i'w blasu.

Sian Roberts

Mae cwmni 'Loving Welsh Food' yn cynnig teithiau a saffaris bwyd, gweithdai a chyflwyniadau am gynnyrch Cymreig a thraddodiad coginio yng Nghymru.

Bydd y teithiau yn mynd ag ymwelwyr ar daith o gwmpas Bro Morgannwg mewn bws, i gael blasu bwyd a diod lleol a chwrdd â'r cynhyrchwyr. Sian B Roberts sefydlodd y cwmni, ar ôl mynd ar saffari bwyd a diod yn Sydney rhai blynyddoedd yn ôl.

Wedi mwynhau'r profiad a chlywed am deithiau tebyg yn Chicago, fe benderfynodd Sian roi cynnig ar y syniad yng Nghaerdydd a'r Fro, a'r canlyniad yw Teithiau a Saffaris Bwyd a Diod Loving Welsh Food.

Ymhlith y rhai oedd yn arddangos eu cynnyrch yn y noswaith i lansio'r cwmni oedd Nic Osgood gyda'i chacennau - (roedd y Raspberry Ruffles yn arbennig) a Fferm organnig Slade, ar gyrrion St Brides Major.

Ac i olchi'r cyfan i lawr roedd gwin perfriog Gwin y Fro o winllan Meadow View tafliad carreg o'r dref. Cafodd pawb hwyl wrth wneud 'blind tasting' ac er mawr rhyddhad i Michael ei win ef Gwin y Fro oedd fwyaf poblogaidd gyda Champagne go iawn yn ail!

Meddai Sian: "Ry ni'n gyfarwydd â bwyd o Ffrainc, yr Eidal, Tsieina, ond dy ni ddim yn gwybod llawer am ein bwydydd a ryseitiau traddodiadol ein hunain.

"Y syniad gwreiddiol oedd cynnig gweithgareddau hwylus a blasus, gan gynnwys ychydig o wybodaeth am ein bwyd a diod yma yng Nghymru – ac i'r ymwelwyr, ambell air o Gymraeg.

"Rwy'n dwli ar goginio, blasu bwyd a diod newydd a darllen am hanes bwyd a diod. Mae'r teithiau a'r saffaris bwyd, y gweithdai a'r cyflwyniadau yn dod â phopeth at ei gilydd – y gwahanol swyddi dwi wedi cael, a'r diddordeb sy gen i ym myd cuisine."

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth am y teithiau bwyd a diod yn y Bontfaen ar wefan Loving Welsh Food.

Bydd Sian hefyd yn cynnig gweithdai i unigolion yng ngwesty Nos Da ar Orffennaf 15 ac Awst 12, a gweithdai coginio yn Sain Ffagan o Awst 4–7. Mi fydd y gweithdai ar y 5ed o Awst ar gyfer siaradwyr Cymraeg.

Peppa Pinc yn Picio i Palmerston

MAE tymor yr haf yn amser prysur iawn i'r cymeriadau hoffus Peppa Pinc a Sam Tân.

Wedi cyffro Eisteddfod yr Urdd Caerffili a'r Cylch bydd y ddau'n prysuro i Palmerston i ddifyrru'r plant er mwyn rhoi cyfle i'w rhieni fwynhau Diwrnod Blas ar Bwnc ar Sadwrn, Mehefin 20fed.

Mae'r Ganolfan Addysg Oedolion Gymunedol yn dathlu Wythnos Addysg Oedolion drwy gynnig diwrnod o weithdai addysg oedolion cyfrwng Cymraeg am ddim i siaradwyr Cymraeg a dysgwyr hyderus, a'u teuluoedd.

Dewch yn llu i brofi dosbarth Gitâr, Celf, Drama, Gwneud Pypedau, Gwnïo, Crefftau ac Ieithoedd Celtaidd a Modern. Cewch dro ar ein Ipads, mwynhau stori, sgwrs a phaned, ac ymrwymo i un gweithdy neu drio sawl un.

Dewch â'r plant i ddysgu rhywbeth newydd gyda'ch gilydd, neu dewch hebddynt am lonydd i ganolbwyntio! Gobeithio daw Sam Tân â'i flwch offer, er mwyn ein helpu i adeiladu theatr bypedau ar gyfer perfformio straeon newydd sbon y dosbarth drama!

I gadw lle neu am fanylion pellach cysylltwch â mnfurnham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

SESIYNAU AMSER TYFU YN Y BONTFAEN

BRAF yw medru adrodd bod sesiynau Amser Tyfu i blant dan 3 oed wedi cychwyn rhedeg yn llyfrgell y Bontfaen ar fore dydd Iau am 10am-11am yb yn ystod tymor yr ysgol a'u bod yn mynd o nerth i nerth.

Mae'r cynllun Tyfu yn cael ei ariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru a'i weinyddu gan Gwmni Iaith ac mae'n cynnig cyngor, gwybodaeth a chefnogaeth ymarferol i rieni newydd mewn perthynas â chyflwyno'r Gymraeg i'w plant.

Medd Sioned Stephens, Swyddog Datblygu Tyfu yn Mhenybont a'r Bontfaen "Mae'r sesiynau am ddim ac yn gyfle i rieni newydd gyda babis bach a phlant dan 3 oed i ail gydio yn y Gymraeg mewn awyrgylch clos ac anffurfiol."

Beth am alw draw? Cewch glywed stori, dysgu rhigymau Cymraeg, trafod llyfrau bwrdd Cymraeg a dwyieithog, dysgu geirfa sylfaenol gyda'ch plentyn, defnyddio aps Cymraeg a llu o adnoddau eraill i ddefnyddio yn y cartref gyda'ch plentyn.

Mae Carys a Darren Brown a'i merch Mali sydd yn 5 mis oed ac yn byw ym Meisgyn yn deulu dwyieithog wedi dechrau dod draw i'r sesiynau. "Mae'n gyfle gwych i Mali i gael y Gymraeg o'r cychwyn a dod yn hyderus, ac mae hi wrth ei bod yn clywed Dad nad sydd yn rhugl yn y Gymraeg yn darllen y Bath Mawr Coch iddi".

Mae'r sesiynau hefyd yn gyfle i gwrdd â rhieni newydd sydd yn magu eu plant yn yr ardal a'r cyffiniau. Mae'r grŵp yn agored i ddysgwyr, rhieni di-gymraeg a siaradwyr Cymraeg felly rhannwch y neges a dewch draw i flasu sesiwn hwyliog a chyfeillgar gyda Sioned.

Sesiynau Tyfu – Bob dydd Iau 10am-11am yb yn llyfrgell y Bontfaen (tymor yr ysgol yn unig).

Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Sioned Stephens, Swyddog Datblygu Tyfu ar 07791 02336; Facebook/Tyfu Penybont a'r Bontfaen.

SÊR EIRY - GEMINI

OS cawsoch eich geni rhwng Mai 22ain a Mehefin 21ain – rydych chi'n Gemini. Arwydd awyr dan reolaeth y planed Mercher, sy'n golygu eich bod yn gymeriad hwyliog hapus gyda meddwl chwim, a thafod ffraeth. Dyma dylwythen deg neu Gwyn ap Nudd y Sidydd.

©Suzanne Carpenter

Rydych chi'n hoffi teithio, mynd, mynd o hyd byth yn llonydd. A rydych chi wrth eich bodd gyda phethau newydd, llefydd newydd, ffrindiau newydd, syniadau newydd. Rydych chi'n gyfathrebwr naturiol, sy'n hoffi siarad a gwneud ffrindiau gyda phawb, ac yn hoffi gwybod busnes pawb hefyd!

Mae'n bosib fod gyda chi ddawn ysgrifennu hefyd. Mae'n ddifyr iawn bod yng nghwmni Gemini fe allwch siarad yn ddiddorol a ffraeth ar lawer o bynciau. Mae'r gallu gyda chi i wneud mwy nag un peth ar y tro yn llwyddiannus iawn, ac mae gyda chi gôf anhygoel.

Rydych chi'n berson cymdeithasol iawn ac yn dysgu'n gyflym yn dda gyda ieithoedd ac yn dda iawn am ddynwared pobl eraill.

Rhaid cyfadde fod ynnoch chi duedd i fod yn orsiaradus, ac yn rhy fusneslyd. Weithiau mi fyddwch chi'n osgoi cyfrifoldeb, ac yn anfodlon gwneud digon o ymdrech i fwrw'r maen i'r wal. Rydych chi'n tueddu byw ar eich nerfau a phoeni'n ormodol am fanylion.

Person aflonydd iawn mae'n amhosib eich cael i eistedd yn llonydd, na chwaith i ganolbwyntio ar un peth ar y tro – rydych chi mor hoff o wibio o un peth i'r llall.

Geminiaid Enwog – Robin Huw Bowen, Heather Jones, Arwyn Davies, Joan Collins, Mike Peters, Cilla Black, Owain Glyndwr.

GŴYL DEWIN A DOTI

MAE'N bleser gallu cyhoeddi mai'r Brodyr Gregory fydd yn arwain y canu a'r dawnsio efo ni yng Ngŵyl Dewin a Doti Dde-Ddwyrain (h.y. yr hen Ŵyl Feithrin) eleni yn Sain Ffagan ar y 15fed, 16eg a'r 17eg o Fehefin.

Y thema bydd 'Y Tywydd a'r Tymhorau', ac fe fydd Cylchoedd y Fro yn mynychu'r sioe 11.30am ar y 15fed o Fehefin. Cysylltwch â'ch Cylch lleol neu Rhian Thomas (Swyddog Cefnogi) ar 07792 959868 er mwyn prynu tocyn.

Hoffwch ein tudalen Facebook am ein newyddion diweddaraf – Mudiad Meithrin Y Fro.

Mynd am dro i'r...Barri!

BETH sy'n dod i'r cof o glywed yr enw Barri?

Ry ni gyd yn nabod Barri: Barri sy'n gapten ar y tîm peldroed lleol, fe sydd hefyd yn chwarae 'darts' i dafarn y pentre; ac yn gefn i'r PTA lleol...o gysidro bod enw'r lle mor gyfystyr ag enw person, pam bod hi'n gallu bod braidd yn annelwig pa "Barry" yn union oedd tarddiad yr enw?

Fel brodor i ardal Penarth, rydw i hefyd yn frwd iawn i osgoi cyhuddiadau o ddibynnu yn ormodol ar Ddwyrain y Fro felly dyna i chi reswm da arall i ni droedio hi draw i ganolfan gweinyddol y Fro - a chartref y Barry Gem wrth gwrs - sef Y Barri yn Y Gymraeg!

Yn ôl Howard C Jones yn ei gyfrol Place Names in Glamorgan (Starling Press Risca, 1972; ac felly'n anhebyg iawn o fod yr un Howard Jones a lwyddodd i ofyn 'What is Love?' mor angerddol yn yr 1980au) tarddiad enw Y Barri yw Ynys y Barri!

Digon teg Mr. Jones, digon teg – er efallai bod hyn yn newyddion i staff a disgyblion Ysgol Sant Baruc – ond beth yw tarddiad Ynys y Barri gofynnwn ninnau yn angerddol felly...

Mae'r gred taw Sant Baruc ei hun (Barrwg neu Barrog yn ol Howard C Jones) o'r 6ed ganrif yw'r ysbrydoliaeth am yr enw modern Y Barri yn un gadarn : mi foddodd Sant Barrug yn yr ardal a mi gafodd ei gladdu ar Ynys Y Barri (Jones tud. 15).

Nid oedd Gerald de Barry (sydd efallai'n fwy cyfarwydd i ni fel Gerallt Cymro wrth gwrs) yn credu mai enw ei deulu ef oedd tarddiad enw'r dref; ond yn hytrach yr union i'r gwrthwyneb gan eu bod nhw wedi symud i fyw i'r ynys ar ôl i'w dadcu Normanaidd – sef Odo – ennill perchnogaeth ar dir Ynys Y Barri fel gwobr am ei ymladd dewr yn erbyn lluoedd y Sacsoniaid yn Lloegr yn ystod yr unfed ganrif ar ddeg.

Doedd dim cyfenw gan y teulu cyn symud i'r Barri mae'n debyg, felly fe atgyweiriwyd hyn gan ei feibion ac fe gymrwyd yr enw 'de Barry' ymlaen i'r ganrif nesaf.

Cynnigwyd hefyd gan Howard C Jones yn Place Names in Glamorgan y posibiliad mai nid enw person ydy "Barry" o gwbl; cyflwynwyd y cysyniad taw 'bar' i olygu bryn, neu gopa, sydd wrth wraidd yr enw Y Barri.

Fodd bynnag, i ddychwelyd i'r cwestiwn cyntaf, beth sy'n dod i fy meddwl i am dref Y Barri yw mai tref fwyaf Cymru gyfan yw hi, a bod ganddi glwb peldroed o bwys hanesyddol. Ond, mae hynny yn stori buasai hyd yn oed Gerallt Cymro yn gweld hi'n anodd esbonio mewn un golofn!

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GETTING SET FOR SUMMER IS ALL IN THE PLANNING!

THERE'S something magical about summer that lifts spirits, boosts motivation levels, relieves tensions and generally makes everything seem happier and more fun.

For many of us, it means spending more time outdoors, topping up our minds, bodies and souls with a good dose of nature, fresh air and sunshine.

Yet 'summer dread' can crop up too. If your countdown to June is spent fretting over the thought of having to bare more flesh, put up with another bout of sweat rashes and chafing, or cope with the intensified social pressures (why does everybody else have an endless stream of invites to barbecues, picnics and parties, and I'm watching *Big Bang Theory* re-runs again?), you're not alone.

Summer though, like everything else in life, doesn't have to be 'perfect' - and you don't have to have a 'perfect' bikini body, or 'perfect' social life to enjoy it.

You just need these expert tips on how to make the most of a few months of sunshine:

Sioned Quirke, NHS and media dietician (www.quirkynutrition.co.uk) – "I like to have a serious fridge clear out!

"I usually find several items that have been sitting there for a while that I won't use again, or may have passed the recommended storage time – especially sauces and conserves.

"I give my fridge a good clean too and I find using antibacterial wipes so easy and quick – makes it less of a chore!"

Anna Magee, women's health expert and editor (healthista.com) – "The average person makes a staggering 200 food decisions a day, according to research by Cornell University, so I change a few things about the way we eat to subliminally increase my willpower.

"These include drinking out of tall glasses [proven to lead to drinking less], covering healthy leftovers in cling-film so I can see them, and chocolate cake remainders in foil so I can't.

"Lastly, I put my running shoes by my bed and my kit on the radiator, so they're within eye shot as soon as I wake up.

"I need to intercept that moment between opening my eyes and deciding that working-out is a bad idea, by being able to see my gym kit the moment I wake up!"

Sally Wisbey, Spatone nutritionist – "Spring is a great time to detox your mind, body and home and make some changes for the summer months ahead.

"Starting off the day with a glass of warm water with the juice of one lemon will help cleanse the liver and aid with detoxification.

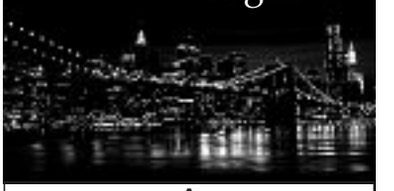
Too much dairy, gluten, sugar and processed foods can be inflammatory and hard to digest, leaving you sluggish and tired, so cut back on these.

"Introduce green juices into your life; bursting with nutrients, these will give you tonnes of energy, get your skin glowing and keep your brain smart.

"Juice an apple, handful of spinach and kale, stick of celery, half a cucumber, chunk of ginger and the juice of half a lemon."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 32)

CUT & STYLED
Hair Design



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Julian Morgan, managing director, said: "It was important for us to invest further into the business with a new purpose-built trailer unit with major technology and support from our Canadian partners in Vancouver.

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Barry Pilates Classes

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1-2-1 Pilates lesson with Sharon

To Book or for more information

Sharon 07830 085606

www.barrypilates.co.uk

PILATES is a gentle form of exercise that both strengthens and stretches the body.

It is suitable for many different people of varying ages and fitness levels.

Some people attend the classes to improve their fitness or flexibility, others find it helpful with a variety of aches and pains and some just enjoy the class and the relaxation it brings.

If you don't fancy joining one of the classes on offer or if you need a little more help, why not try a private lesson with Sharon.

Sharon is a qualified Pilates teacher and also a local osteopath.

Classes are small and friendly and are held in Barry at St Nicholas Hall.

To book your place, contact Sharon on 07830 085606 or see www.barrypilates.co.uk.

It's all a matter of balance!

Reflexology is now available at Cowbridge Physiotherapy, Acupuncture and Sports Injury Clinic, as Joanna Cunningham-Jones of Cowbridge Reflexology, is returning to the centre of the town.

The pace of life for so many of us these days is just frantic.

With the constant bleep and ping of technology, deadlines at work, demands at home, or a mixture of all three; the pressure on our own time has never been greater.

More and more of us are living our lives in the fast lane, with our own health and wellbeing seemingly pushed further and further down our list of priorities. It's a toxic situation, and it's often some time before we begin to realise the negative effect that living life at such a pace can have on our physical and emotional health.

Reflexology can help ease the impact of modern life and address the imbalances in the finely-tuned systems of our bodies.

Reflexology is the relaxing way to help ease the symptoms of anxiety/low moods/fatigue, sleep disturbances, digestive issues, women's health, sub-fertility and maternity, cancer and palliative care – as well as general aches and pains.

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If we don't hear well, we can start misinterpreting what people say; this can cause embarrassment and affect the way we interact with others, and also affect our confidence.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Health, Beauty & Fitness

SUMMER IS HERE – *so it's now or never!*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30)

Dr Sarah Brewer, (www.DrSarahBrewer.com)

"As soon as the sun shines, I'm out in the garden in the hope of replenishing my vitamin D levels: thinning the wild garlic; mulching the herb garden; collecting young bay tree leaves for fish dishes; tying in four grape vines climbing over my pergola... It's so lovely getting outside again, and sunshine lifts my spirits."

***Lucy Paltnoi, energy healer and guide (lifeisenergii.com)* – "Each year, I clear the winter energy out of our home.**

"I go through every room and decide what stays, goes or needs to be repaired, and store away blankets, jumpers, coats and boots, and take out lighter layers, T-shirts, cardigans and jackets. Cupboards are cleaned and tidied. It's especially important to restore or replace broken items, dying flowers and plants, and to make sure things are generally in a good condition.

"I finish with some vases of fresh flowers or plants and light some candles, inviting new, sparkly energy into our home for the year ahead."

ValePlus volunteers in their 'garden oasis'.

The volunteers make a garden oasis in Barry

LOCAL charity ValePlus was given free National Garden Gift vouchers – thanks to the 'Have a Wild Weekend' campaign run by Keep Wales Tidy and funded by the Welsh Government's Nature Fund.

Volunteers from ValePlus rolled up their sleeves when they found out they had been successful in applying for £400, which they used to develop a wildlife oasis at their garden in High Street, Barry.

The aim of the 'Have a Wild Weekend' campaign is to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, as well as to help communities create new habitats and food sources by planting wild flower havens in unused spaces.

Steve Thomas, a director of ValePlus, said: "We are very grateful for the grant support given to our charity to create a new wildlife habitat in our garden. The project was very successful and a very positive vibe was created among those involved with the work."

Lesley Jones, chief executive of Keep Wales Tidy, added: "I am delighted that so many groups across Wales got involved. They have planted new flowering plants to attract our bees and butterflies, as well as giving existing habitats a helping hand."

BRIDGEND IS WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE!

BRIDGEND Library is taking part in The Big Wild Rumpus 2015 – a nationwide campaign to celebrate the nation's love of the Maurice Sendak book, Where the Wild Things Are.

On Saturday, June 13, wild things will be gathering in villages, towns and cities across the UK to read the book aloud and enjoy a 'Big Wild Rumpus' of activities.

Local wild things are invited to meet at Bridgend Library at 10am to kickstart the fun with mask-making followed by a storytelling performance of the book before venturing outdoors for muddy madness.

Participants are also encouraged to get into the swing of things by dressing up in their wildest costumes, with a prize for the wildest outfit.

Activities will be free of charge and are intended for four to 11-year-olds, but all ages are welcome. Places are limited so booking is essential.

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and participants will need to wear suitable outdoor clothing and wellies. It is also recommended to bring a change of clothes.

For more information or to book a place, contact Diana Apperley on 01656 642048, or email Diana.Apperley@bridgend.gov.uk.

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust, to find suitable homes for inmates at the rehoming centre in Bridgend.

Rubin is worth extra attention

RUBIN is a two-year-old Staffy-cross who is a lovely lad, and is loving and affectionate when he knows you.

Rubin is improving on his social skills greatly with friendly dogs, which will need to be continued with his new owners. Rubin prefers to be walked in quiet environments.

He can live with children 14 years and over and is definitely one for bull-breed fans willing to put in that little extra effort for him to settle.

LINDA FEAGAN
(Supporter Relations Officer
Dogs Trust Bridgend)
linda.feagan@dogstrust.org.uk
(Tel: 01656 728923)

Eurovision: YET ANOTHER MISS!

ONCE again, the United Kingdom did not make it at the Eurovision Song Contest, but got five more votes than last year!

Have we lost our way, or are we just no longer in favour? We know the countries whose votes we would never get.

Before voting took place, my choice was Sweden (a worthy winner), followed by Italy – I liked the Three Tenors.

I was pleased that back scratching did not take place, as in previous years; it was a farce.

Mrs Heveron,
Rhoose.

Pair in line for big day

AERON SMITH and his Brynhill PGA professional, Matthew Owen, are one step away from following in the footsteps of Europe's Ryder Cup heroes with an appearance in the Lombard Trophy final at Gleneagles.

Four-handicapper Aeron won his club qualifying competition and they now advance to the regional final at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club on June 11, where they will compete against up to 70 other clubs for the chance to secure one of 16 prized spots available for the 36-hole grand final.

Ian Isaac, head of sales at Lombard, said: "After a record number of entries in 2014, this year's Lombard Trophy promises to be another exciting competition.

"The competition culminates at Gleneagles, which proved itself a fantastic venue for last year's Ryder Cup and which offers a great incentive for this year's participants."

THE MILLWOOD BOWLERS' CUP WIN

AFTER the defeat last week by Belle Vue, Millwood were back to their winning ways, defeating Cadoxton by eight shots in the fourth Munro Cup game.

At the fourth end, Millwood held a very slender two shot lead at 14-12, and after the ninth end had been played the lead had increased to a 13 shots advantage to Millwood, 39-26.

Cadoxton then managed to pull back some of the deficit by the 14th end to only trail by six shots, 51-45, only for Millwood to finish off at the 18th end to gain an eight shot victory, 65-57. Millwood took another 12-2 point total for the win.

On June 10, Millwood are away to Barry Central in the sixth game of the Munro Cup. **JH**

HIT THE SURF TO LEARN ALL ABOUT BEACH SAFETY...

VALE schoolchildren will swap the classroom for the beach this week – as they Hit the Surf with RNLI lifeguards, as part of the charity's popular safety programme on Whitmore Bay (Barry Island) to teach children how to stay safe on the beach this summer.

"Last year, over 500 pupils from 20 Vale of Glamorgan primary schools took part in the RNLI's Hit the Surf programme on Whitmore Bay," Elin Jones, RNLI Lifeguard Community Engagement Supervisor said.

"The educational programme was first introduced by the RNLI back in 2004 and has grown in popularity over the years. As part of the half-day session children are taught the meaning of beach flags, the dangers of rips and tides and what to do if they spot someone else in trouble.

"However, the highlight for each child every year is the chance to put on a wetsuit and learn basic body surf skills under the watchful eye of the RNLI lifeguards.

"We have an amazing coastline here in Wales and the beach is a great day out for all the family. It's nice to see the children leaving each session having learnt new skills – hopefully some will share these safety tips with other members of the family as they visit the beach this summer."

ABOVE: Pupils are seen taking part in Hit the Surf last year. *RNLI picture.*

The charity will be running Hit the Surf sessions on Whitmore Bay for two weeks. For more information on how to stay safe on the beach this summer, visit the RNLI website: www.rnli.org.uk/beachsafety or download the charity's' beach safety mobile app.

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The GEM
News, Sport, Letters, Features, What's On, Jobs, Motors....

SPORTING CHANCE IN THE VALE

THE Vale Council is offering 10 high-performance sportspeople free use of the Vale's leisure facilities, as part of the Sports Academy scheme.

To be eligible to apply for membership, individuals must participate in a sport that is recognised by Sport Wales and be affiliated to the appropriate recognised national governing body.

They must also have recently represented Wales or Great Britain in their sport and be in a position to achieve further international honours.

For further information, contact the council's leisure section on 01446 704793.

BRICKS AND MORTAR: Advice from your local property expert

ADVERTISING FEATURE

KAREN from Ewemove Vale of Glamorgan Limited, explains the Importance of Kerb Appeal when selling your property.

The saying goes that first impressions last. And you only get one chance to make a first impression…There's also a belief within the industry that buyers make their decision on whether to buy within 10 seconds of arriving at your home.

I believe that this is too simplistic, but the reality is that when your potential buyer arrives, if they get a negative first impression, you're starting off on the back foot.

You'll then have an enormous amount of work to do to try and regain the lost momentum and move the prospect into a position of wanting to make you an offer.

The problem faced by most people when they come to sell their home, is often not seeing straightforward yet obvious improvements albeit through no fault of their own but simply over-familiarity! So when you try to sell your home, you should first try and look dispassionately at your house, through the eyes of an observer seeing it for the first time.

This is often harder than it seems and you may need to enlist the help of a trusted friend who you can call upon to seek their advice and tell you the brutal truth!

Ask them: "If I absolutely had to sell my house and you needed to help me in the best way that you can – what should I do to make the first impression that a buyer receives, as amazing as possible?"

At the end of the day, it's simply a matter of common sense, a bit of good old elbow grease and a few quid spent. All of which will dramatically enhance and improve the presentation of your property upon arrival.

I've produced a handy checklist for you to use as a guide:

1. Clear the garden of any children's toys/trampolines etc.

2. Clear the garage/shed of any junk/items that you will not be taking to your new home.

3. Weed the garden and sweep up any leaves.

4. Jet wash any pathways and driveways.

5. Repair any broken fences and gates.

6. Paint any exterior woodwork and metalwork, for example gates, fences, gutters and doors.

7. Clear gutters and make sure that the roof has no missing or damaged tiles.

8.Clean windows inside and out.

9. Plant seasonal flowers and/or hanging baskets.

10. On the day of the viewing, make sure that the driveway or roadside is clear for the viewer to park their car.

11. Try to conduct your viewings during the day.

12. If your property has two entrances, guide them to the entrance that has the most scenic visual outlook.

These steps just cover the exterior of your property. A good way to look for inspiration on how to improve the appearance of your property is to get ideas from the best houses on your street and copy what they've done.

But what if you find yourself in a situation where your house looks immaculate, but it's being let down by a neighbouring property? Sometimes, the house next door can be extremely off-putting to potential buyers.

Remember, they're not just buying a house; they're also forming an opinion on their possible future neighbours. Most people assume that nothing can be done in these situations, but if you're determined to get a sale and want the best price, you can take the initiative.

I know one particular owner who had a house next to a property that had an overgrown garden, litter strewn outside and a tired broken fence. It looked horrendous and was a complete eyesore. The neighbours were elderly and, sadly, unable to maintain the upkeep of their property. So the seller approached them and offered to do all the clearance work.

For a few hundred pounds and a weekend's hard graft, the front garden was transformed. They'd dramatically improved their chances of a sale and at the same time performed a good deed for their extremely grateful neighbours.

The story had a happy ending with the seller achieving the full asking price in a matter of weeks.

For further information, contact Karen on 07976585153 / Karen@ewemove.com or visit www.ewemove.com/barry.

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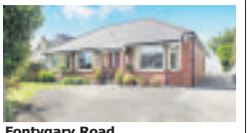

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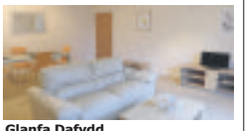

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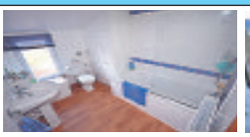

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NEW

SMEATON CLOSE, RHOOSE

Modern semi detached, living room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 2 double bedrooms, driveway, enclosed rear garden, viewing essential, ER=C.

£144,950

NEW

BROOKFIELD AVENUE, BARRY

Modern detached dwelling, 4 bedrooms (ensuite master), living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, integral garage, private enclosed garden, no chain.

£224,950

NEW

EVERARD STREET, BARRY

Mid terraced traditional, 2 seperate reception rooms, modern replacement kitchen, 3 bed, stairs rising to a hobby area in attic, UPVC DG - GC heating via combi, well presented thoughout.

£139,950

NEW

GLADSTONE ROAD, BARRY

Mid terraced traditional, extended to the ground floor, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, WC cloakroom, 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, no chain - well presented, ER=D.

£127,950

NEW

MIMOSA HOUSE, BARRY WATERFRONT

Well presented, ground floor apartment, Westbury built in approx 2004, 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, ensuite bathroom & family bathroom, 2 designated parking spaces, no chain. ER=C.

£119,950

NEW

HEOL CORSWIGEN, BARRY

Well presented, modern detached, through living/dining room, WC cloak, kitchen/breakfast, integral garage, 3 bedrooms, driveway/side access, enclosed rear garden

£195,000

NEW

TREM Y DON, BARRY

Stunning detached,original features remaining, 3 reception rooms, conservatory, 1st floor: 4 bedroom (ensuite), dressing room, family bathroom. 2nd floor: fifth bedroom - ensuite. Further conservatory housing, hot tub/sauna - double garage.

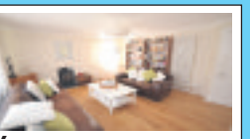
£479,950

NEW

CARN Y EBOL, BARRY

Two bedroomed property, mid linked modern, ideally positioned, downstairs cloakroom, enclosed rear garden, designated parking to rear, well presented throughout, viewing recommended. ER=C.

£134,950



NEW PRICE

HELLAS DRIVE, BARRY

Modern detached dwelling, constructed approx. 29 years ago, recently refurbished, WC cloak, living room, kitchen/diner, utility room, conservatory, 4 bedrooms (master ensuite), luxury family bathroom, garage-parking, ER=D.

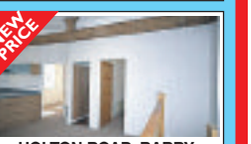
£294,950

NEW PRICE

PAGET ROAD, BARRY ISLAND

Contemporary, secure living, 1st floor apartment, open plan living/kitchen, views over cricket garden, double bedroom, secure parking to rear, pin code entry system, ideal for FTB or investor, ER=C.

£80,000

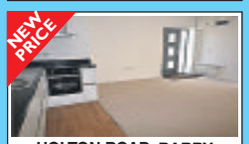


NEW PRICE

HOLTON ROAD, BARRY

Luxury first floor apartment, contemporary living, open plan kitchen/living room, 2 bedrooms, beamed ceiling/glass balustrading, no chain - viewing essential.

£92,000



NEW PRICE

HOLTON ROAD, BARRY

Ground floor, luxury apartment, contemporary living, 2 bedrooms, open plan kitchen, low maintenance courtyard garden, no chain.

£89,950

NEW PRICE

WINDSOR COURT, BARRY

Pre-owned apartment, 1 bedroom, open plan living/kitchen, situated on the 2nd floor, lift, security entry system, CCTV monitoring to all floors, gymnasium and laundry room, parking with secure electric gates, west end location, no chain, ER=D.

£89,950

NEW PRICE

DUNRAVEN STREET, BARRY

Mid terraced, living room, ground floor bathroom, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, UPVC DG - GCH via combi, in walking distance to numerous beaches & Porthceri Park

£124,950

NEW PRICE

GLAN HAFREN, BARRY

Luxury living on the edge of the beach, 3 bed apartment (previously 2), wet room and bathroom fully tiled with marble from floor to ceiling, two balconies with panoramic views, 2 garages and ample further parking

£249,950

NEW PRICE

GLOUCESTER CLOSE, BARRY

Much loved semi detached, living room, open plan kitchen/diner, 3 bed, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, side access, no chain. Viewing essential, ER=D.

£124,950

NEW PRICE

NANT TALWG WAY, BARRY

Showhome presented, spacious detached, WC cloakroom, living room, open plan kitchen/diner, conservatory, 4 bedrooms, double garage, ER=E.

£281,950

NEW PRICE

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY

Bay fronted mid, through living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, hobby room in attic, double garage approx. 18ftx16ft, no chain, ER=E.

£142,500

NEW PRICE

FIELD VIEW ROAD, BARRY

Semi detached, living room leading to dining room, modern fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, first floor shower room, driveway leading to garage, enclosed garden, no chain.

£129,950

COED MAWR, BARRY

3 bedrooms, semi detached, living, dining, extended kitchen, conservatory, views accross farmland/vale, longer than average driveway, garden room formerly garage, viewing recommended. ER=E.

£184,950

PORTHKERRY ROAD, BARRY

Elevated traditional, mid terraced, well presented, living room, kitchen/diner, lean to, WC cloakroom, 2 double bedrooms, raised garden with level, sitting areas ER=E.

£134,950

BARRY ROAD, BARRY

Mid terraced traditional, well presented - spacious dwelling, 2 seperate reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, 1st floor: replacement bathroom, UPVC DG - GCH via combi boiler, enclosed rear garden, ER=D.

£119,950

NELSON ROAD, BARRY

Well presented, versatile detached dwelling, ground floor: living room, conservatory, 2 bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom. 1st floor: master bedroom, ensuite, bathroom, garage, ample parking, enclosed rear garden, ER=D.

£179,950

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY

Period terraced property, spacious living accommodation, through living room, sitting room, 4 double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, original features throughout, no chain, ER=D.

£159,950

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY

Mid terraced traditional, original stained glass windows, original black & white flooring, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, gas central heating, no chain.

£139,950

PENCOEDTRE ROAD, BARRY

Mid terraced traditional, living/dining room, modern fitted kitchen/diner, 2 bedrooms (ensuite), family bathroom, raised decked sun terraced, lower laid to lawn area. ER=D.

£125,000

GELYN Y CLER, BARRY

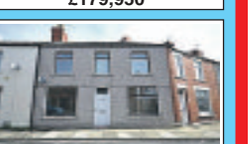
Well presented, modern elevated, mid terraced, WC cloakroom, living room, kitchen/breakfast, 2 bedrooms, cul de sac position. ER=D.

£134,950

ROWAN COURT, BARRY

Refurbished throughout 2014, 3 bedroom maisonette, far reaching sea views, GCH via combi 2014, newly fitted bathroom suite 2014 & replacement kitchen, 26ft lounge, enclosed balcony, minutes walk to Romilly Park, no chain. ER=E.

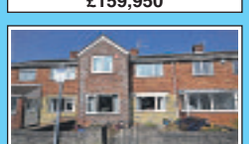
£139,950



VALE STREET, BARRY

Corner positioned, well presented, mid terraced traditional. 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, well presented. ER=E.

£114,950



LEWIS STREET, BARRY

Extended modern, mid terraced, WC cloakroom, living/dining room, 16ft kitchen/diner, 3 bedrooms, low maintenance rear garden, west end location, ER=C.

£149,950

TORDOFF WAY, BARRY

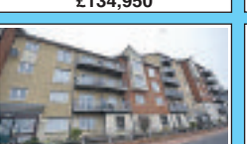
3 bedrooms, semi detached bungalow, well presented throughout, living room, shared driveway, designated parking to rear, far reaching sea views, side access.

£165,500

COURTENAY ROAD, BARRY

Mid terraced traditional, 2 seperate reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, 2 double bedrooms, 1st floor family bathroom, in need of some modernising, no chain, ER=E.

£80,000



GLAN Y MOR, BARRY

2nd floor apartment, 2 bedrooms - ensuite, approx 16ft living room, balcony with water views, gas central heating, offered with no chain, designated parking, EPC=C.

£99,950

WINCHESTER CLOSE, BARRY

Modern semi detached, living room, kitchen overlooking rear, 3 bedrooms, bathroom - WC, side access - no chain, EPC=D.

£84,950

TYDFIL STREET, BARRY

Mid terraced traditional dwelling, through living room, fitted kitchen, replacement fitted bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, no chain. ER=D.

£114,950

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3 Bedrooms
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3 Bedrooms
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Garage
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Harding Close, Boverton
3 Beds. 2 Recps.
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£215,000 E49

Harding Close, Boverton
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Garage
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4 Bedrooms
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Garage. Driveway
£214,950 D68

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Kitchen/Diner
Southerly Garden
£99,950 D62

Higher End, St Athan
4 Bedrooms
Conservatory
90' Garden. Garage
£249,950 D57

Boverton Court, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Extended
Popular Location
£169,950 D58

Mallory Close, St Athan
2 Double Bedrooms
2014 GCH Combi
No Onward Chain
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3 Bedrooms, Garage
West End Location
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Detached Garage
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MAY DAVIES

We would like to thank everyone for the good wishes and many cards received on the occasion of our 90th birthday. We had a lovely get together with family and friends.

May and June

Birthdays

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xxx

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

THOMAS
Harry

Peacefully, after a short illness, at Holme Tower, Penarth, on May 25, Harry of Woodham Park, Barry.

Beloved dad of Sharon, Jeremy, Rachel and Andrew and their partners, a loving grandfather.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service in the chapel on Wednesday, June 3, at 1pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Towers, Bridgeman Road, Penarth CF64 3YR.

JEFFERIES
Roy

Peacefully on May 28 at University Hospital of Wales with his devoted wife "The Dragon" Sandy at his side. Much loved dad of Chris and Paula, stepdad to Rhys and Richard and loving future father-in-law of Becca (Gertrude). A cherished grandad & great grandad Roy to all his grandchildren. Special brother of Derek & Diane, Alan and Barrie.

Roy will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew him.

Resting at the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at their Windsor Road Chapel, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Monday, June 8 at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry.

Family flowers only – donations if desired may be made at the service to Marie Curie, Holme Towers, Penarth in memory of Roy. Family request colourful clothing be worn to reflect on Roy's character and personality.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962

JOYCE
Margaret

Peacefully on May 30, Margaret of Salisbury Road, Barry. Dearly loved wife of Raymond, loved mother of Huw, Catherine and mother-in-law of David. Cherished grandmother of Nick, Sam, Abbie and Kingsley.

Margaret will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Friday, June 12. Funeral service and committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, where family and friends please meet at 2pm. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Dementia UK.

PEARCE
(nee Whitworth)
HELEN MOREEN

Passed away suddenly at home on May 26. Treasured wife of John, cherished mum to Vicki, Sarah, James, Richard and Neil. Devoted nanny to Charlotte, Ellie, Edward and Gwen. Beloved daughter of Moreen and the late Edward and much loved sister of Linda and Phil.

Helen will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams until the funeral service on Tuesday, June 16 in the Chapel of Rest at 2pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

COX
Bradley

Gone too soon, peacefully at home with his family on May 28, aged 18 years. Bradley, beloved son of Rachel Cox and Stuart Stone.

Being cared for by Lyndsay Ellis at The Vale Funeral Service until a celebration of his life, which will take place at the Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road on Saturday, June 6 at 11.45am, afterwards at Barry Crematorium at 1pm.

His parents request bright colours be worn and casual dress code. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Marie Curie or Macmillan.

"There are no words to describe how much we will miss you. We will love you always and forever"

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962.

Paul Lewis
June 8, 2014.

A sad year has passed since we lost our beloved Paul. He was a wonderful, caring and devoted husband, father and nonno.

Deeply loved and forever missed by wife Jill, daughters Jane and Julia, grandchildren Chiara, Luca and Morgan and all the family.

YANDALL
Ted

Margaret Yandall and family wish to thank everyone for the donations made to Holme Towers in remembrance of Ted Yandall.

OWEN
Pat

Quietly passed away on June 1 at Milsom House Care Home. Widow of much loved Ken and aunt to her seven nieces. Pat and Ken were active and quietly generous supporters of the local community. Twenty one years a Town Councillor, Pat was twice Mayor of Llantwit Major.

Pat will be missed by family, friends and neighbours.

Funeral service 2pm on Thursday, 11 June at St Illtyd's Church, Llantwit Major. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers to the Church Fund. Further information from W.A. Brown & Son, 01446 792489.

GAMBLE
James Arthur (Jim)

Peacefully at home on May 28 after a long illness, aged 80. Cherished husband of Salonge, loving father of Samantha and adored grandfather of Ja'zille and Josh.

He will be greatly missed.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, June 8 at 10.30am.

Anniversaries

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47 Welsh hopefuls make early bid for a World Cup spot

TEN English-based players, nine uncapped players, and (inevitably) one or two mildly surprising omissions, were the main talking points when the Wales head coach unveiled his 47-man preliminary training squad for the Rugby World Cup on Monday.

The familiar faces that make up Warren Gatland's core squad are all in place (minus the injured Jonathan Davies), but with a comparatively small playing base to draw from, he has wisely opted to widen the net – though he was never going to please everyone.

That said, it is nevertheless an impressive-looking mix that gives a teasing glimpse into his initial thinking in these very early stages of the RWC 2015 campaign.

We will, of course, know a great deal more after the 47 recruits have been tested in the promised torrid summer at the hands of Gatland's drill sergeants – before he whittles his troops down to 31, in readiness for the assault on Twickenham in the autumn.

Don John

THE PRELIMINARY TRAINING SQUAD

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FORWARDS: *Rob Evans (Scarlets), Tomas Francis (Exeter Chiefs), Paul James (Bath Rugby), Aaron Jarvis (Ospreys), Gethin Jenkins (Cardiff Blues), Rhodri Jones (Scarlets), Samson Lee (Scarlets), Nicky Smith (Ospreys), Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Kristian Dacey (Cardiff Blues), Richard Hibbard (Gloucester Rugby), Ken Owens (Scarlets), Jake Ball (Scarlets), Luke Charteris (Racing Metro), Dominic Day (Bath Rugby), Bradley Davies (Wasps), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Rory Thornton (Ospreys), Dan Baker (Ospreys), Taulupe Faletau (Newport Gwent Dragons), James King (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (Ospreys), Ross Moriarty (Gloucester Rugby), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Sam Warburton (Cardiff Blues, capt).*

Mixed fortunes for cricket teams

ON Saturday Barry Athletic Cricket Club 1st XI travelled to Ponthir for a league game that proved to be a nailbiter in more ways than one.

Barry were soon in trouble after they lost openers Goodway and Provis with just 19 on the board, for 13 and 2 respectively.

Wickets kept falling throughout the innings and Barry were left on 71 for 9 when Gee and Frost came together and added a priceless 21 runs, with Gee ending up on 14 not out with 2 fours and Barry all out for 92. A disappointing score - but there was to be a few twists in the game yet.

Ponthir's reply got off to the worst possible start as they lost their first two wickets with only 10 on the board as captain Gee got Price for 0 and Burkitt for 8.

There was a partnership of 43 and Ponthir looked to be strolling to the win, then 6 wickets fell for just 20 runs. First to go was A Burkitt for 9 off Usswald back in the side after his 6 for 6 the week before; M Dennhey went for 35 off Uswald with the score on 64 and then Harrison for 0, also off Usswald with the score on 64.

Gee brought himself back on and took the wicket of J Dennhey LBW for 5 and the score was now 65 for 6.

Ponthir went into tea on 73 for 6 but there was still time for more drama as the first over after tea produced a double wicket maiden as Gee had George caught by Usswald for 1 and Evans caught by Griffett for 0.

It was 73 for 8 and the impossible now seemed a real possibility, but it was not to be as Crook and Higgins saw Ponthir home to a nail biting nervous win, Gee ending with 5 for 24 and Usswald 3 for 23.

At the Athletic Ground, Barry Island, Barry Athletic 2nd XI lost the toss and were asked to bat first.

They posted a score of over 300, with Damon Leake (99), Lee Morgan (80), Ashley Baker (50) and Craig Brock (31 not out) being the main contributors.

In reply Ponthir amassed 75 all out; the best of the bowling were Rhys Hatton 3 for 8, Ashley Baker 2 for 13 and Steve Jones 2 for 22, with only J. Davies really showing any resistance for Ponthir.

Barry now top the table with 19.67 points and are unbeaten in their first three games of the season.

This weekend Barry Athletic 1st XI are home to Rogerstone with a 12.30pm start and the 2nd XI away to the same opponents; on Sunday Barry travel to Aberdare for the first round of the Welsh Cup.

On Sunday, June 21, Barry Athletic junior section will have the honour of being the guard of honour for the NatWest T20 Blast game between Glamorgan and Sussex at the SWALEC Stadium.

Junior training is on Tuesday evenings between 6pm and 7.15pm; senior nets start Thursday at the ground from 6pm to 8pm.

MR

BOWLERS SLIP UP IN THE CUP

THE Munro Cup was played at Millwood with a fairly close defeat; the details of the match were not available.

CADOXTON v ELY – CML6

The Cardiff & District League opening game for Cadoxton was played at home against Ely, on a pleasant, sunny, day; the result brought 12 points for Cadoxton with two against.

Howard Craven's rink started off with three winning ends to lead 6-0. This advantage was reduced to just one shot by the 11th end, and with two ends left the lead was the same. However they finished strongly with a '2' and a '4' for welcome success.

The rink skipped by Roy Harding trailed 4-1 after four ends, but by the 10th end the scores were level. A strong finish, with just one further losing end, saw them safely home.

On the rink skipped by Don Kuhnell the advantage swung to and fro, with the scores level on four occasions.

However, two '3's opened a gap and with two ends left with a nine shot lead, another home win looked on the cards.

A '5' against on the penultimate end gave the opposition hope but a single on the last was not enough to stop the third rink win.

Gordon Davies skipped the other rink and they looked well in with another success when leading, after a '5' gave them a 10-3 advantage.

The opposition came back to draw level, 10-10, before three singles against prevented a 'full house'.

***Scores**: J Stacey, L Davies, J Jones, H Craven 19-12 L Parsons, A Williams, J Hobbs, J Dunscombe; P Swannick, I Robertson, K Chedgzoy, R Harding 15-7 M Mais, P Mallon, M Lewis, B Niblett; R Byrne, L Adams, D Jeffries, G Davies 14-17 D Carnell, K Berry, G Smith, M Hurley; S Clarke, J Ferguson, D Brook, D Brook 19-16 T Evans, B Baker, E Palmer, M Sigallias. Final score 67-52.*

CADOXTON 'A' v BARRY CENTRAL

A depleted Cadoxton 'A' side visited Barry Central for their opening league game and found the mission too great for them.

A triple skipped by David Evans was the only rink to have any success, with a one shot win.

Dai Tuck skipped the only full rink and although taking an early 7-3 lead, this dwindled to 8-8.

On the next end a '5' against was cancelled out on the next four ends. Eventually the home side inched ahead to get the result.

The other two rinks found the opposition and the lack of a player too much and were comprehensively defeated.

***Scores**: G Powell, J Smart, D Fanning 7-49 K Tanner, J Hawkins, A Rogers, T Kaged; R Cole, A Prince, D Evans 22-21 M Penney, G Goldthorpe, B Castle, T Goddard; R Morris, A Field, G Garland 12-37 C Ditchburn, D Brewer, J Wathes, E Hudd; S Clements, I Heppenstall, G Solomon, D Tuck 17-22 A Castle, E Handy, G Carstairs, D Goddard. Final score 79-74.*

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Aubrey risks ire of his wife - but wins big!

The winning golfers.

GETTING permission from a birthday-celebrating wife to play in the annual medal round competition is not something easily achieved.

To then be able to forget 'her indoors' and focus entirely on the task ahead for four hours, keeping the ball on the fairway and taking as few shots as possible is another task which many have failed to overcome.

However, 82 year old Aubrey Bowen, the oldest competitor participating, overcame both of these obstacles last Thursday to win the monthly competition organised by the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society played at Fairwood Park Golf Club situated on the Gower.

Playing for the Shrieval Trophy donated to the society by the late Mr Islwyn Rees, 29 competitors set out in fine weather all attempting to win one of the many desirable prizes supplied by Mr Mark Rees.

ABOVE: Bryan Owen keeps his eye on the money!

The dreaded thought of playing a medal round that many fear as against the traditional stableford format certainly has an impact with many competent golfers returning scores not in keeping with their ability.

However that was not the case with Aubrey Bowen. Playing very consistent golf on both the front and back nine enabled Aubrey to finish with a net 74 one shot better than Godfrey Lewis who had a nett 75.

In third place was society captain Brian Jones who returned a nett 79 followed by Neil McLean, who also finished with a net 79. John Thomas with a net 76 won the visitors section.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Neil McLean, Bob Bishop, Geraint Davies and Trevor Wooding, with David Williams, having dispensed with the walking stick he depended on just four weeks ago, hitting the longest drive of the day on the selected hole to win a brand new Lynx driver kingly donated by Fairwood Park Golf Club.

Unluckiest participant was Colwinston farmer Clive Edwards, who was distraught after placing two brand new balls alongside the water lilies in one of the many small ponds that are a feature of this well maintained parkland course.

Acting treasurer for the day, Bryan Owen, returned home with the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whisky when correctly guessing 35 balls would remain in the adjoining county, raising £60 for Prostate Cymru.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 26, when members will travel to the Knowle Golf Club in the centre of Bristol to compete for the PJC International classic.

Quarter final draw for the Nipper Jewell Memorial Trophy - Aubrey Bowen v Trevor Wooding; Dan Jarvis v John Davies; Neil McLean v Keith Davies; Brian Jones v Geraint Davies.

TMcC

Interactive obstacle race for charity

KIDNEY WALES, organisers of the annual Cardiff 10k race, are launching The Gauntlet Games on Saturday, June 6 in the heart of the Vale.

A spokeswoman explained: "The Gauntlet Games is an event like no other; a high octane obstacle course set across the 600-acre private estate Coedarhydyglyn near Culverhouse Cross.

"The fun-filled obstacle course boasts a Gladiator theme, with a 5km or 10km route available to choose from, both of which send participants through a series of interactive Gladiator Zones and muddy trails.

"All the obstacles will be manned by real life Gladiators, who will be injecting some fun into the obstacle, armed with foam weapons, paint guns and inflatables!

"The 10k course starts at 10am, and a 5k event at 10.10am.

Roy Thomas, chief executive of Kidney Wales, said: "We are really excited to be the first host for The Gauntlet Games in Wales.

"The event, which will now be a permanent fixture on the Kidney Wales activity programme, will raise much-needed funds to assist us in the work we do, supporting those suffering with kidney disease across Wales."

Contact http://thegauntletgames.co.uk/pages/event-info-june/.

Ladies & Girls hold their end of season presentation

ABOVE: Phoebe Williams and LEFT: Millie Gall.

FOR the second year in succession, the Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club took its end of season presentation awards to the Cardiff City Stadium.

Well over 300 people packed into the Ricoh Suite overlooking the pitch consisting of players, parents, coaches and team sponsors for what proved to be another memorable night to end a fantastic season for the club.

The evening started off with a photo montage of the 2014/15 season before under-14 players Chloe Moggridge and Olivia Townsend took to the stage to present the evening.

Club chairman Luke Williams gave a presentation highlighting the huge progress the club has made over the past three years and announced details of a new exciting partnership with Welsh League club, Barry Town United.

The presentation then began in earnest with all club players receiving trophies followed by team awards.

Once the trophies were handed out all players were taken into the Cardiff City Stadium dug outs to have professional team photos taken to capture a special moment pitchside for the girls.

A raffle and a disco drew the night to a close in what proved to be a very successful night of celebrations. The club would like to thank sponsors DG Windows, Trivett, Nuffield Healthcare, Barry Building Services, CMS Teamwear, MAZ Building Ltd and DXE Hire Ltd for their continued support.

In addition, the club would also like to thank partners Barry Athletic FC for use of their facilities throughout the 2014/15 season.

AWARDS

Team of the year - Vale Dragons under-12s; coach of the year - Adam Hewings (under-16); club player of the year - Jasmine Rowley.

Players of the year: Caitlin Meadows - Vale Dragons under-12s; Lucy Patmore - Vale Caerau under-12s; Ella Hilliard - Vale Wanderers under-12s; Ruby Dickens - Vale Athletic under-12s; Millie Gall - Vale Wanderers under-14s; Grace Corne - Vale Athletic under-14s; Georgia Peplow - Vale Girls under-16s; Millie Jones - ladies.

Most improved players: Kaylee Short - Vale Dragons under-12s; Heledd Powell-Vale Caerau under-12s; Amy Buckler - Vale Wanderers under-12s; Sophie Fraser-Lewis - Vale Athletic under-12s; Darcy Richardson - Vale Wanderers under-14s; Phoebe Williams - Vale Athletic under-14s; Gabbi Cates - Vale Girls under-16s; Robyn Hall & Shanaz Masani - ladies.

Recognition award: Isabella Chapman - Vale Girls under-10s; Ffion Spence & Olivia Barnett - Vale Dragons under-12s; Mali Collins - Vale Caerau under-12s; Georgia Jones - Vale Wanderers under-12s; Sascha Hayes - Vale Athletic under-12s; Jasmine Rowley - Vale Wanderers under-14s; Rebecca Gentles & Olivia Townsend - Vale Athletic under-14s; Caitlin Thomas - Vale Girls under-16s; Emily Mortimore - ladies.

LW

We welcome your sports news, reports and other items of interest - email us at: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

PICTURED (left to right): John Wilson, team manager WAVIB, Wyn James, Specsavers chairman for Wales and Bill Marshall, vice chairman WAVIB.

Sponsorship fillip for Welsh visually impaired bowlers

SPECSAVERS in Bridgend has renewed its sponsorship of the Welsh Association of Visually Impaired Bowlers (WAVIB) after first joining forces with the organisation in 2014.

The £2,500 deal sees the store on Adare Street, along with 34 Specsavers stores across mid and south Wales, support 53 players and members of the association ahead of its first championship of the 2015 season.

Specsavers will contribute towards the cost of travel, food, green fees and accommodation for the tournaments played by members of the WAVIB, as well as team kit branding.

Paul Morris, director of Specsavers in Bridgend, said: "The Welsh Association of Visually Impaired Bowlers is a fantastic organisation and we're delighted to continue to support it again this year."

The first tournament of the season is the Welsh Singles Championships held in Haverfordwest on June 23-25. The tournament will decide which of the WAVIB players will go on to compete at the UK indoor championship in Nottingham later this year and the UK Four Nations Championships in 2016.

Welsh steeplechase jockeys – a look back...

THIS week, The GEM's Brian Lee takes a look at two more Welsh steeplechase riders featured in his out-of-print book Welsh Steeplechase Jockeys, published by Cwmnedd Press in 1993.

WHP JENKINS

Mr WHP Jenkins, who was known to his friends as 'Jenks', used to ride under the pseudonym of Phillip Merton.

Born in 1842, the son of John Jenkins of Caerleon, Gwent, he started his racing career in an auspicious manner by winning a steeplechase at a small meeting held at Crwys Farm, Cardiff, in 1861 on a mare called *Crinoline* owned by Mr Charles H Williams of Llanrumney Hall, later to become a large public house on a Cardiff council estate.

'Jenks' rode *The Robber* to victory on more than 25 occasions and it was on *The Robber* that he finished eighth in the 1869 Aintree Grand National. One splendid day at Aylesbury races, he rode five winners, one of them a steeplechase for ponies!

He once jogged 12 miles wearing several heavy sweaters and took a strong dose of physic so that he could go to scale at the correct weight. His drastic efforts paid off when the horse he rode trotted up.

Finishing second at a meeting in Gloucestershire, he objected to the winner on the grounds of foul riding. Unable to make up their minds, the stewards requested the jockeys concerned to toss a coin to decide the result. They did with the result that 'Jenks' came off second best once again.

GWYN SAUNDERS DAVIES

GWYN Saunders Davies Scourfield, to give him his full name, was born in 1865 at Pentre – he took the name of Scourfield when he inherited the family property of Williamstown, Pembrokeshire in 1922.

Saunders Davies between 1882 and 1903, when he gave up race riding, won 332 races and was placed 364 times out of a total of 1,068 rides. He also had 103 falls.

He was 17 when he rode his first winner on Colonel Howells' *Jane Shore* at the Tivyside Hunt Steeplechases. A popular performer of Saunders Davies was *Fairy Queen*. Saunders Davies rode in five successive Grand Nationals between 1896-900, but the nearest he could get to winning was when he rode *Prince Albert* into fourth place behind the mighty *Manifesto* in 1897 and *Breemount's Pride* into fourth to the only royal winner *Ambush 11* in 1900.

When Saunders Davies won the Welsh Grand National at Cardiff's Ely Racecourse on *Cloister* in 1896, he received a tremendous ovation from the 40,000 or so racegoers who had flocked there to see the 1892 Aintree Grand National winner *Father O'Flynn* take on the 1883 winner, *Cloister*.

Cloister, who had won at Aintree with a record weight of 12st 7lbs and in a record time and by a record distance, made practically all to win easily. *Father O'Flynn*, however, was a beaten horse when he pulled up at the last fence.

It was at the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases at Cowbridge in 1892 that Saunders Davies won two races on the same horse. On *Varteg Hill* he won the Penlline Open Steeplechase and, later in the day, the Scurry Steeplechase.

They certainly bred them tough in those days! When his race riding days were over, Saunders Davies left Wales to train privately at Cleeve Hill near Cheltenham for his friend, Mr John Reed Walker.

From Cheltenham he moved to Myrtle Grove, Sussex, and it was from there that he trained the 1909 Oaks winner, *Perola* as well as the Stewards Cup winner *O'Donovan Rossa* and the Manchester Cup with *Rambling Kate*.

**Next time we take a look at Cardiff's Joseph Butler Jones whose purple and black racing colours were known on racecourses throughout the land.*

Contact Brian Lee Tel: 02920 736438.

Testing conditions at the 36th Rhoose Ski Race!

THE 36th running of the Rhoose Ski Race, hosted by Rhoose Lifeguards, took place on Saturday May 16, and 30 paddlers competed.

The event took place in testing conditions with a 20 mph westerly wind blowing all day. The course was altered to laps from Fontygary up to Aberthaw, with juniors doing one lap, senior men three laps, and everyone else doing two laps.

Many thanks to all those that took part, to those that helped to organise the event and provided the BBQ, drinks and cakes.

Special thanks to the IRB crews, and thanks also to RWE nPower Aberthaw Power Station for their contribution to the cash prizes.

RESULTS

Under-16 boys - 3km: 1. Jason Grice - Rhoose, 2. Declan Ewington - Rhoose, 3. Dyfan Goode - Rhoose; under-16 girls - 6km: 1. Ellie Peterson - Rhoose, 2. Brooke Peterson - Rhoose, 3. Wiggins - Rhoose; under-19 girls - 6km: 1. Kelsea Peterson - Rhoose.

Under-19 boys - 6km: 1.Will Parker - Rhoose, 2. Alex Parry - Rhoose. Open men - 9km: 1. Lloyd Rosewell - Pen-y-bont, 2. James Grandfield - Rhoose, 3. Sean Grans - Pen-y-bont.

Masters men - 6km: 1. Simon Parker - Rhoose; Ocean ski masters: 1. Glen Parry - Cardiff Bay; Masters ladies - 6km: 1. Karen Harris Rhoose; Open double - 6km: 1. Sarah Bryant & Steve Baker - Rhoose, 2. Steph Robinson & Arwyn Jones - Llantwit/Penybont, 3. Lauren Blake & Caitlin Young - Rhoose.

JF

Zarzal defies top weight

EVAN Williams' seven-year-old *Zarzal* defied a hefty top weight of 12st, 7lbs, when winning the the Ladbrokes Handicap Hurdle at Worcester last Friday.

Zarzal, who was landing a hat-trick, won by two-and-a-half lengths from *Baths Well* and was ridden by 7lb claimer Conor Orr. There were 16 runners and *Zarzal* went off the 4-1 favourite.

The closing handicap hurdle went to Debbie Hamer's *Pennant Dancer* who, ridden by Paul Moloney, beat *Steps And Stairs* trained by top trainer Jonjo O'Neill. Debbie Hamer hails from the Vale but now trains in west Wales.

Pennant Dancer, a winner of its previous race, won by nine lengths at odds of 8-1.

BRIAN LEE

Mark lands title at Barrivale!

THERE was no bridge at Barrivale Bridge Club on May 26.

However the annual handicap winner for 2015 was Mark Roderick (pictured above).

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively, beginners or improvers/new starters would be welcome on a Friday at 9.45am at the above address; this activity will recommence on June 5.

DR

LOCAL CLUBS PARTNER UP

BARRY Town United AFC and Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club are delighted to announce their new partnership which commences with immediate effect.

The link will see a formal affiliation between the two clubs and collaboration at all levels including knowledge sharing; coach exchange and community engagement that will hopefully provide exciting opportunities for football at all levels within Barry and the Vale.

The partnership will also see Vale girl's senior team renamed as Barry Town United Ladies, the first female team to play under the Barry Town banner since 2002.

The ladies team will compete in the SWWGL Division 2 and play their matches at Jenner Park. The team will be managed by the Vale Ladies and Girls backroom staff, who will develop and feed players through their junior system.

Luke Williams, chairman, Vale Ladies and Girls Football Club, commented: "We see the partnership with Barry Town United AFC providing our female section with the final piece of the jigsaw.

"We have quickly developed an unrivalled junior set up in the female game and this partnership will now give us a strong identity in Welsh Football and first class facilities to nurture the exciting talent we have within our club.

"Having use of a 2,000-seater stadium with a first-class new playing surface will make a huge difference to player development. We look forward to working with Barry Town United AFC and creating a strong partnership for years to come."

Eric Thomas, chairman, Barry Town United AFC, added: "We have enjoyed a positive relationship with Vale Ladies and Girls FC over recent years, and I am delighted that this has resulted in this formal partnership.

"They share a very similar ethos and vision to us and we are very much looking forward to working with them."

Gavin Chesterfield, first team manager, Barry Town United AFC, said: "I'm delighted to welcome the Vale girls into the Barry Town United family. This builds upon our recent partnership with Vale Reds Disability team and further offers opportunities for footballers across Barry and the Vale. These are very much exciting times to be involved with our club."

Barry Town United AFC going into the 2015/2016 season will now have eight teams within its structure - under-8s, under-13s, under-15s, under-19s, senior team plus two pan-disability teams at under-16 and over-16 age groups, and a senior ladies team.

DC

Millwood bowlers slip to loss in league

IN the last game of the South Vale League game, Millwood 'A' were beaten by Cadoxton by the margin of five shots, 79-74, after a fairly hard-fought game by both sides.

After five ends of the scheduled 21 ends, Millwood were holding a rather healthy-looking six shot lead at 22-16. The lead was soon wiped out and Cadoxton established a nine-shot advantage after 10 ends to take a 34-43 lead.

The game was keenly fought and after the 15th end, Cadoxon only had a slender two-shot to be leading 54-56.

The 21st end saw the game stay in Cadoxton's favour for them to win by five shots.

Although Millwood did win on three rinks out of the four, a big loss by rink five, meant that the points score was 8-6 to Cadoxton.

Millwood welcomed Murch Bowling Club as their opponents in the first of the new division 4 format whereby each club plays home and away.

With the first five ends played, the score stood at 22-14 in favour of the home side, who then made a further increase to lead after 10 ends by 46-27.

Millwood then put further pressure on Murch to take a lead at the 15th end by a 80-41 shot lead, and after the 21st end, Millwood had a very impressive 99-57 shot advantage.

With all Millwood rinks winning, Millwood gained the maximum 14 points for the first game, with rink 3, skipped by Alan Evans taking a 21 shot winning margin, which did help a lot!

Thanks go to Murch for a well-played contest, and hope that Millwood can do the same in the return game later on in the season.

This Saturday, Millwood will be away to St. Peter's - let's keep up the good form!

Millwood 'A' side travelled out to play Murch 'A' in the first Division 7 game, and came away with the victory under their belt.

Millwood produced a match winning six shot margin, winning 72-66, thereby ensuring a 10-4 points tally.

After the fifth end had been played, the scores were tied at 14-14, whereupon after the 10th end, Millwood had taken a slender 31 – 27 lead.

Try as they may, Millwood couldn't keep the lead, for after the 15th end Murch had taken a 43-47 lead, but Millwood fought back in the final quarter, and at the end of the game the lead had changed hands again for Millwood to come out winners.

By winning on two rinks Millwood gained the 10-4 point win. As with every game of bowls, the contest was played in the best of sportsmanship by both sides.

Thank you all players on both sides, enjoy the game, win-lose-or draw!

This Saturday Millwood 'A' are home to Barry Central - another win would be nice!

JH

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56 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life Automatic 5-Dr.** In silver, 86,000 miles **£2,995**
05 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 5-Dr** In met blue, with leather trim, 46,000 miles **£2,995**
06 **MAZDA 2 Antares 1.4 5-Dr** In met-grey, 61,000 miles, 1 owner **£2,695**
55 **CITROEN C2 Design 1.4** In black, 46,000 miles, 2 owners **£2,695**
05 **RENAULT Megane 1.9 Diesel Dynamique Convertable** In black, low mileage **£3,495**
07 **FIAT Bravo 1.4 Dynamic 5-Dr** In met-grey, 54,000 miles, fantastic value **£3,295**

08 LAND ROVER Discovery 2.7 Diesel HSE
Automatic, 7-seater, silver with black leather, 63,000 miles, sat-nav, tv, steps, fully colour coded
£17,995

04 MINI One
In red, 87,000 miles with panroof, bodykit, alloys etc
£3,495

11 JAGUAR XK 5.0 V8 Convertable
In silver, black hood, black/cream leather, 25,000 miles, 1 owner
£32,995

05 RENAULT Megane 1.9 Diesel Dynamique Convertable
In black. low mileage
£3,495

59 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5-Dr
in hot magenta, 27,000 miles, 1 owner
£6,995

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blackhorse

Point-to-point blast from the past – the 1970s by BRIAN LEE

BEFORE the start of the 1977 season, I wrote a first person – or should that be first horse – piece about Wales' most popular point-to-pointer and under the heading 'Straight From The Horse's Mouth'.

It went like this....

'My name is *Mandryka*. I am the most talked about point-to-pointer in the history of Welsh hunt racing. I have graced the Welsh scene for the past six years. During that time I have chalked-up 34 victories beating the record of the grey *Sylvester 11* who won 29 races in the 1950s.

'I have been tagged Rhondda Rocket, Welsh Wonder and Mighty Midget. But I must admit that a lot of the credit for my success must go to my owner/trainer Tom Morgan, a Rhondda sheep farmer.

'Tom bought me from Harry Blackshaw's stable for just 120 guineas. Yes, that's right, 120 guineas. Not much to look at, they said. They even called me 'weedy'. I soon showed them. Didn't I?

'Just because I had finished down the field in several hurdle races they thought I was a scrubber. Rounding up sheep with Tom's daughter Shan aboard is much more fun than racing in hurdle events.

'My name first became popular when I beat Milton Bradley's *Octroi*, the mare everyone said was unbeatable in Wales. Perhaps you'll remember how I sped past her that day at Lower Machen. I've enjoyed success outside of Wales, too. My victories across the other side of the bridge did a lot to put Welsh point-to-pointing on the map. When the new season opens in February I will be 13.

'Some cynics are already saying the Rhondda Rocket is burnt out. Well, don't you believe them. I have been recharging my batteries these past few months and I'm raring to zoom away again. Look out for me soon. You'll find me in the winner's enclosure.'

Well, *Mandryka* who was retired in 1978, in all won 38 ladies' open races, five men's opens and a hunter chase. He once completed a sequence of finishing in the frame 33 times and in nearly 80 point-to-points fell only once.

One story of mine which got me into trouble with some of the bookmakers was headed 'Horse On Bookies' Boards Was Miles Away At Home In Her Stable.' It read:

'GHOST RUNNERS at some Welsh point-to-points are costing racegoers money.

'Take the recent Tredegar Farmers' meeting. Several punters backed *Starletta* to win the Maiden event – but they had no chance of collecting. Seven-year-old *Starletta* was miles away in her Llanwern Stable suffering with corns.

'So how did *Starletta*'s name get on those bookmakers' boards? One explanation is that the owner of a horse called *Star Choice* declared the wrong number. Surely someone should have checked the list of entries? The same type of incident occurred in the first race for which there were only five runners. No excuse here.

'Bookmakers were taking bets on a horse that wasn't running. The horse they had on their boards was *Royal Refuge*. In fact, it should have been *Westlawn Hill*. When I pointed out the mistake to one bookmaker the error was corrected. One punter who realised he had backed *Starletta* was apparently refused his money back. Point-To-Point officials must ensure that mistakes of this nature don't happen again.

'Punters would also be wise to make sure their fancy is in the paddock before putting their money down.'

My phone hardly stopped ringing after a number of bookies read my piece and, for the record, they didn't phone to congratulate me on it either!

1977 was the year that Cowbridge's John Llewellyn broke a bone in his right hand in a fall at Cheltenham Racecourse and the year when Cyril Morgan's *Canhe*, ridden by Tim Rooney, made it four wins in a row when winning the men's open at the Pentyrch Hunt Steeplechases. Barry's Anne Williams riding her father Ted's *Channel Ten* beat the mighty *Mandryka* in the ladies' open and Aberthin's Ross Farr won the maiden on *Davin Moor*.

Bridgend butcher David Oakes took the members' race on *Abbot's Delight* and I congratulated the Pentyrch officials for providing a racecard which contained form figures at no extra cost.

Canhe went on to make it six wins in a row when accounting for Philborough in the men's open at the Gelligaer Farmers, where Anne Williams celebrated her 21st birthday a day early by winning the ladies' open race on *Channel Ten*. Bonvilston's Tudor Harris took the members' race on *Green Art V1*.

Two real characters I had the pleasure of writing about in the 1970s were Henry Blake and Richard Hambleton. Blake was known as the man who talked to horses. Born in Somerset, he lived on Llanybyther Mountain in Dyfed and he used to ride his small grey mare *Iantella* in the Foxhunters Chase at Aintree. He claimed to be able to 'talk to horses' and his bestselling book 'Talking With Horses' was published in 15 languages.

He claimed to talk to horses by way of ESP and telepathy and he used to ride a lot for Dillwyn Thomas of Kenfig Hill. He was known as The Major, owing to his military bearing and sadly he ended his days in a wheelchair – the result of a riding accident.

He loved his Woodbines and I remember visiting him in Rookwood Hospital and 'feeding' him his cigarettes as he couldn't hold them himself. One good horse he rode to victory a lot was Dillwyn Thomas's *Prince Haven 11*.

As for Chepstow's Richard Hambleton, he once accused me of having an affair with a fellow racing reporter (female, I hasten to add, and no I wasn't). It was just that Richard blamed me for everything that was written about his horses that appeared in the Hunter Chasers & Point-To-Pointers Annual, which I had nothing to do with at all. But I couldn't convince him.

You might have thought that Richard, who had his teeth knocked out, both hands broken, his shoulder smashed and various other injuries, including his face badly damaged in a car crash, would have thought about hanging-up his riding boots. But no, he continued riding for years.

The form book said that his mare *Gracious Lady* was 'a highly unsatisfactory ride and a waste of time for racing.' However, in 1975 he won two races on her, despite being left at the start each time! On one famous occasion Richard rode two winners on the same day at Howick.

You can e-mail your point-to-point or horse racing stories and pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or telephone 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

Young rollerskaters impress in Andover!

GLAMORGAN Artistic Roller Skating Club entered a team of their younger skaters in the Tots, Mini and Espoirroller skating championships held in Andover recently.

After a long journey, the team - Ewan Maxwell, Michael Vaughan, Maya Archampong and Bethan Daly - headed straight to the leisure centre for the pre- competition warm up and some last minute training.

The Federation of Artistic Roller Skating splits their Championship events by age, and this Championship event covered from ages eight-13. This is the first time in over 20 years that a Welsh club has had a team of a high enough calibre to enter the event, which is a huge achievement for Glamorgan Artistic and a great credit to their coaches Sheilah Davies, Hilary Cridge, Donna Daly, Anne Marie Escott, Elizabeth Vaughan, Amy Goodwin and Julie Whitingham, who give up so much of their free time to coach the club members.

The event attracts clubs from all over Great Britain and was attended by over 200 skaters. All the skaters performed magnificently with Michael Vaughan and Bethan Daly placing second in their event - the couple's solo and free dance; this was a fantastic result for the club which is extremely proud of the standard its competition teams have acheived.

These results are a testament to the hard work and great effort the team have put in during the months prior to this event, training at Llantwit Leisure Centre, Cogan Leisure Centre and Colcot sports Centre, Barry over three times per week.

Anybody interested in learning to skate and perhaps progressing to competition level is welcome to visit the club at its Tuesday session held at Colcot sports centre from 6pm-8pm.

Roller skating is a great sport for all ages, it helps with balance, coordination and can improve core muscle strength providing a complete aerobic workout.

Please see our website Glamorgan-artistic-rsc.webs.com or see our Facebook page for more information and contact details. ***AG***

Porthcawl will host 2015 Welsh Cycling championships

WELSH Cycling hass announced that the Prostate Cymru Welsh Cycling Criterium Championships will be held on Sunday, September 20 in Porthcawl, promoted by local cycling clubs Port Talbot Wheelers and Tap It Out Cycling Club.

The 1km circuit will begin on the promenade, taking riders through the seaside town centre with a few twists and turns on the way providing spectacular racing for competitors and spectators.

Welsh Cycling Chief Executive Officer, Anne Adams-King said: "The Welsh Cycling Criterium Championships is always an exciting event on the calendar; the town centre circuit will provide many great viewing points for fans, as well as some challenging racing for competitors.

"With the race taking place on the seafront of Porthcawl there will be a great atmosphere on the day, and I look forward to seeing many of our members in Wales competing for the championship titles that are on offer."

Event organiser, David Lloyd said: "I remember watching cycle racing on the promenade when I was younger. It is a great feeling to be able to bring such a great event to Porthcawl, with the support of both Bridgend County Borough Council and Porthcawl Town Council and charity Prostate Cymru."

Visit www.welshcycling.co.uk for more information.

THE SCORPIONS ARE STUNG BY HORNETS

SOUTH Wales Scorpions again suffered from lack of experience and morale as they allowed Rochdale Hornets in for 12 tries in Mountain Ash on Sunday, going down 64-10.

However the home side held out well in the first half despite an early Rochdale try where Warren Thompson ran 50 metres to set up Paul Crook for the opening try which he converted himself.

They aimed for a quick second but Crook's 40-20 attempt just failed. Paul Edwards came close to scoring the Scorpions' opening try, but was beaten by the touchline and forced a goal line drop out.

Rochdale played a good kicking game for their second try which was on 27 minutes. Danny Bridge knocked it through first, then Dale Bloomfield followed on and Danny Yates pounced. Jordan Case missed the kick.

Yates ran over for another straight from kick-off and Case converted before Scorpions struck back on 34 minutes when Yannick Parker scored in the corner but Paul Emanuelli missed the kick.

But Rochdale addressed the balance a couple of minutes later when Bridge went over. The same man opened the scoring two minutes after the interval, before Wayne English added a try on his 350th professional appearance.

Scorpions didn't give up and continued to threaten the Hornets' line. A good decoy kick from Emanuelli came to nothing as the ball went dead while a successful 40-20 attempt by Emanuelli was wasted due to knock on from the scrum.

Rochdale got going and Scorpions were powerless to stop them. Bradley Hargreaves went over in the corner before a good passing move opened a gap for Lee Paterson to run over unchallenged. Danny Yates converted that one.

Scorpions got into double figures after Rochdale knocked on from kick-off, Kyle Scrivens running under the sticks from the resulting scrum and Emanuelli converted.

However Rochdale won a scrum of their own and immediately got a try back in similar fashion through Paul Crook who converted himself.

They scored three more before the end. Thompson set up Crook to run in for his hat-trick, converting his own try. Yates was over next before English got his second - his 150th club try.

However, the last attempt at the line came from the Scorpions after Curtis Davies kicked, looking for Kyle Scrivens, but the ball was too fast for them and ended over the dead ball line. **IG**

Barry and District Male Skittles League

2014 / 2015 results

CHAMPION of Champions Shield: Winners, Sea View; runners up, 'H' Bells; third place, 49'ers.

Division 1: Winners, 49'ers; runners up, The Merrymen; Rolls, 49'ers; 30s, Geest.

Division 2: Winners, Sea View; runners up, BP Breakaways; Rolls, Sea View; 30s, The Royalists.

Division 3: Winners, 'H' Bells; runners up, Cannon Balls; Rolls, Cannon Balls; 30s, Cannon Balls.

Allform Cup: Winners, Mighty Dockers; runners-up, Sea View.

Holme Tower Shield: Winners, The Merrymen; runners up, British Rail.

G Conibear Six a Side Cup: Winners, Bunker Boys; runners up, 'H' Bells.

A G Rosser Shield for Services to Skittles: Winner to be announced at the presentation night.

Highest score on a away alley: P Fraser, Exiles 44.

Highest score on a home alley: C Casado, Witchill Wizards 45.

Jubilee Cup: Winner, L John British Rail; runner up, M James, West End Fliers.

Secretaries Cup: Winner, P Fifield, Abercrete; runner up, A Perrett, Willie Wombles.

Presentation night is Saturday, June 27 at the Wyndham Conservative Club from 7.30pm.

We welcome your sports news, reports and other items of interest - email us at: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

Glamorgan GEM Sport

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YOUTH TEAM PRESENTATION EVENING

ON Friday evening, the Cowbridge youth rugby squad held their presentation evening – to celebrate a season of unprecedented success.

This year, for the first time, the number of talented boys available has allowed the coaches to run two sides, with teams entered in both the BC and BD leagues.

The BD boys comfortably won their league with games to spare, by winning all but one of their 11 fixtures. Similarly, the BC squad, having last season won the BD league and gained promotion, secured the BC league by winning all of their matches, with an average per game of 41 points for and only 3 points against (statistically the best performing side throughout all five Blues divisions).

As a result of this success, the BC team are currently waiting to hear if they have gained promotion to the Blues Premier League in September.

In addition to their league successes, the BC team were also semi-finalists in the Welsh Cup, finalists in the Cardiff and Vale District Cup, winners of the East District Cup and triumphant over Toulon Academy in the autumn.

Cardiff Blues lock Chris Dicomidis was on hand to present the league and cup trophies to the boys, as well as individual awards as follows: *player's player - Dan Holder (BC), Joe Davies (BD); coaches player - Dan Holder (BC), Hywel Williams (BD); most improved player - Matt Lock (BC), Jack Anderson (BD); clubman - Alex Guard (BC), Josh Brace (BD).*

In addition, outstanding contribution awards were presented to Connor Wyatt, Ben Jones and Ashford Thomas.

There remain sponsorship opportunities available for next season for any businesses looking to help maintain and build upon the success of the youth section at Cowbridge.

GP

Darts league end season on a high!

ON Saturday, May 30, the Cowbridge Darts League 2014-2015 season came to an end with an excellent evening of darts and entertainment at Llanharry Workingmen's Club.

The evening kicked off with the Ladies' Doubles final that was won 3-1 by Pam Adams and Maureen Fleming (Farmers Arms) against Kate Thomas and Joan Smith (Farmers Arms).

This was followed by a very close match in the Men's Doubles final in which Wayne Morgan and Steve Sylvester (Highwayman Inn) defeated Lee Davies and Morgan John (Llanharry) 3-2.

After a short break for refreshments, the next match to be played was the Ladies' Singles final. This game was won by Joan Burt (Old Post Ladies) who defeated Jean Curnow (Old Post Ladies) by the close score of 2-1.

It culminated with the Men's Singles final – Martin Thomas (Edmondes B) coming out on top winning against Steve Simmonite (Edmondes A) in a match that was much closer than the score of 3-1 would suggest.

The evening concluded with the presentation of the trophies and a raffle that raised £250 for this year's chosen charity, Tŷ Hafan.

Ladies' singles finalists.

Men's singles finalists.

Ladies' double finalists.

Men's doubles finalists.

Final league standings after 21 matches, are:

Llanharry (152 points), Edmondes B (117), Highwayman Inn (116), Edmondes A (103), Hare and Hounds (85), Farmer's Arms (74), Edmondes C (70) and Old Post Ladies (37).

So this season is over but already planning has started for next season, which will begin in September.

If you wish to play next season, either by joining one of the present teams or by forming a new team, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

For further details, please e-mail Paul at: cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information and contact details can be found at: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Cowbridge Bowls Club round-up

THERE were two good wins for the men last week, both at home.

Playing last Saturday against Taffs Well, in their first league game of the season, Cowbridge won by 89 shots to the visitors' 75 and gained 11 of the 14 points available by wins on two rinks and a draw on one rink.

***Rink scores**: Bryan Hole, Colin Wilson, Clive Pritchard and Norman Wilkinson (skip) 27-23; Mansel Davey, Len Taylor, Michael Bradley and Bob Penn (skip) 28-13; Terry Dunsworth, John Collin, John Trott and Brian Williams (skip) 17-17; Roger Brewer, John Jones, Peter Launder and Roger Barwick (skip) 17-22.*

A feature of the league games this year is that we play each team home and away. Taffs Well are looking forward to playing us on their green in July!

The second win was in the midweek Munro Cup game against our near neighbours, Llantwit Major, with Cowbridge winning on three of the four rinks and overall by 87 shots to the visitors' 58.

***Rink scores**: Gerry Lloyd, John Collin, Bryan Hole and Norman Wilkinson (skip) 9-19; Ron Frayling, Len Taylor, Clive Pritchard and Bob Penn (skip) 28 -10; Terry Dunsworth, Mick Davey, John Jones and Byron Richards (skip) 28-13; Jim Hewlett, Tony Lewis, Colin Wilson and Brian Williams (skip) 22-16.*

The ladies continue to impress. Early in the week, in an Evening League 2 rink home match, Cowbride beat Millwood by 36 shots to 21 and gained the maximum 10 points.

***Rink scores**: Sian Lewis, Sylvia Hole, Dorothy Pritchard and Shirley Wilkinson (skip) 16-15; Diane Purnell, Mary Thomas, Diane Lloyd and Lynda Wilson (skip) 20-6.*

This was followed up with a Thursday League game away to Millwood. Although losing overall 43-50, Cowbridge did win on two of the rinks.

***Rink scores**: Margaret Cooper, Caryl Davies, Sandra Collin and Shirley Wilkinson (skip) 7-23; Sian Lewis, Phyllis Price, Joy Woolford and Sue Flower (skip) 20-13; Dorothy Pritchard, Maggie Penn, Helena Snelling and Lynda Wilson (skip) 16-14.*

Members are reminded that the club internal competitions have now started and that they should check the board for dates by when games have to be played.

Friday Social Triples starts this Friday (June 5) on a 12-week run: 42 members (21 men and 21 ladies) have been placed into six teams of seven. Those playing are reminded to arrive at 5.45pm so that play can start at 6pm.

Finally, our web page has been updated and includes some photographs taken at our 20th birthday party celebrations.

MB

Bridge results

Results for Cowbridge and District (Llanbleddian) Bridge Club:

May 5 - 1st Pauline Lane and Hugh William 67.78%, 2nd Barbara and Colin Easterbrook 66.67%, 3rd Mary Wallis and Myrtle Hansard 64.44%.

May 12 - 1st Judith Nunn and Marian East 70%, 2nd Andrea and John Clowes 56.79%, 3rd Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 56.43%.

May 19 - 1st Ann Miller and Judith Nunn 60%, 2nd Pauline Lane and Hugh Williams 59.52%, 3rd Sylvia Bryant and Dennis Smith 56.67%.

May 26 - 1st Teri Pollard and Anne Hughes 59.94%, 2nd Barbara and Colin Easterbrook 58.75%, 3rd Marian Arnold and Pam Robins 55%.

ME

We welcome your sports news, reports and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk